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Christmas



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SOUND OFF



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Baby Jesus stolen from Westland widow's nativity scene

I am a widow who has lived in my Westland home for 40 years. I've always decorated my home inside and out for Christmas for the last 18 years. I have a life-size nativity scene in my yard. There's never been any trouble.

Last Thursday, at about 7:30 p.m., a van pulled up, someone got out and went up to the scene, went back to the van and took off.

I was coming around the corner and saw all of it. Unfortunately, I was too far away to see who got out of the van.

I was shocked to see that the baby Jesus was gone. These cannot be replaced unless you buy a whole boxed set. You cannot just go out and buy a baby Jesus. I had to go out and buy them all.

I hope whoever took it has a clear conscience. When they take baby Jesus out of a nativity scene, this is a real sad state of affairs.

Hopefully a Christmas angel will return your lost purse too

I wanted to bring up the subject of Christmas spirit.

I was shopping this week at the Westland Mall and I found a purse at A&W Root Beer, and I sat and looked at it. With human nature, you would've debated

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Thursday, December 23, 1999
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Northwest Airlines employees represented by (from left) Cindy Burley, Darlene Holden and Deidre Larson dropped off donations to Cory School Principal Phyllis Adkins (right) last week. MCN Special Photo

Northwest Airlines workers aid needy Romulus students

By AL POST
MCN Staff Writer

Members of The Hub Club composed of Northwest Airlines employees have donated various gifts to Cory Elementary School of Romulus in turn be given to needy students at that school.

Cindy Burley, who served as spokesperson for the North-

west Hub Club, explained that the club each year donates gifts to various schools, etc.

This year, Burley explained, the gifts were designated for Cory School students.

The Hub Club is composed of approximately 600 employees of the Livonia reservations site for Northwest Airlines.

Among the gifts dropped off

at the school were five bikes, three CD players, two Lego sets.

Also dropped off were a large assortment of winter coats, gloves, pants, shirts, underclothes and boots.

Joining Burley were Deidre Larson of Sterling Heights and Darlene Holden of Detroit, who unloaded presents that had filled three cars and a van.

Detroit Metro Airport ready for holiday and Year 2000

By AL POST
MCN Staff Writer

While Christmas holiday traffic is no match for the voluminous passenger flow during the Thanksgiving weekend period, Detroit Metro Airport is ready for the multiple travel plans "to Grandma's house."

While heightened border alerts between the U.S. and Canada have been announced out west and other locations, because of the arrest of a suspected terrorist, no such security tightening has been announced (as of Tuesday) at Metro Airport.

Security levels could change however as New Year's Eve approaches.

But airport officials reveal that \$1.2 million in electrical,

mechanical and physical enhancements in the security system have occurred at Metro during 1999.

Most of the security changes have been made to make the airport more secure...but also more passenger friendly.

The heaviest travel days at Metro Airport during the holidays appear to be today, Sunday and most of next week.

Metro Airport has installed numerous holiday decorations and other items to add to travelers' holiday spirit.

The most important tips for travelers during this busy period is to arrive early -- two hours early for domestic flights and three hours early for international flights.

Parking should be much easier -- but when on airport

premises call the hotline at 1-800-642-1978 for the latest information.

One major tip is a warning to travelers that wrapped holiday presents may be unwrapped by security staff members if deemed necessary.

As normal all carry-on luggage is subject to a search at checkpoints at the airport, and a personal ID will be demanded at various times if necessary.

Particularly don't leave your luggage unattended during this holiday season and make sure all are properly identified with tags, etc.

Make sure all your valuables such as jewelry and needed items such as medicine are in your carry-on luggage.



Gingerbread display

Second graders at Merriman School are shown displaying their valued pre-Christmas collection of gingerbread houses, trees, etc. From left are Cassandra Coatsworth, Aaron Dismuke and Ashley McCarty. MCN Special Photo

Deepwell issues face negotiations

By AL POST
MCN Staff Writer

With the indepth issue quiz on Romulus deepwell matters started, state Department of Environmental Quality official Steve Sliver cautioned the Site Review Board that only two of the 40 pending issues have been reviewed to date.

Thus he stated a week ago, some of the issues -- such as the water supply needs at the Citrin Drive project area -- will need to be negotiated between the city of Romulus and the Environmental Disposal Systems (well applicants).

At the first in a series of "informal hearings" by the Hazardous Waste Site Review Board hearings on Dec. 16, the city presented its case claiming there is limited or no need for the EDS planned deepwell project in Michigan and that the water supply at the site for emergency needs was not strong enough.

Two professional speakers called by the city, James Goldstein and Frank Biermann, testified that current treatment facilities in the midwest are only being 30-40 percent utilized -- and thus an enormous excess capacity is already

Some of the issues need to be negotiated.

available.

Austin Marshall, EDS vice president, said it was unfair to use those figures -- since one or more of such treatment centers may not remain open in coming years -- thus altering those statistics.

Marshall said also that those sites have been known to put waste into the sewers and some of those sewers have been known to leak.

The city also offered testimony that the water supply at the Citrin Drive site was insufficient for fire protection -- a key element for safety at the proposed well site.

Marshall said EDS agreed with the information supplied by Wade Trim Inc. He added EDS planned to create a deep water well at the site and to negotiate the water-supply issue with Romulus officials via the Site Review Board process.

Loose dog saved by city motorist

By AL POST
MCN Staff Writer

A thankful Belleville dog owner expressed great joy only days before Christmas, as she stated a Romulus motorist saved her dog while it roamed along a congested local expressway.

Amy Neilson of Hoyt Drive in Belleville revealed her nine-month old Retriever-Collie mix named "Sandy" left their property unnoticed earlier this week.

A short time later "Sandy" reportedly began trotting along the busy I-94 thoroughfare, until spotted by motorist Shelly Keachley of Romulus.

The caring driver stopped her vehicle and called "Sandy" to her for safety reasons.

Keachley told Neilson "all I did was call and "Sandy" came running to me."

Neilson feels her dog was frightened by the whizzing of the vehicles passing by and was happy to find a caring friend.

Keachley found the Neilson's name and phone number on "Sandy's" tag and quickly called to report the discovery.

Neilson said she and her husband, Don, found Sandy months ago as a stray. They took the dog in and began contacting local animal shelters to see if anyone had reported the dog missing.

Finding no such reports, she said, "Sandy" settled in and now has become a valued

All I did was call and "Sandy" came running to me.

- Shelly Keachley

member of the Neilson family.

With Christmas so near, Neilson said, they are even more thankful that Keachley took the time to save "Sandy."

To show her thanks she sent a gift of baked cookies and other goodies to Keachley's home.

Still not satisfied, Neilson called the *Michigan Community Newspapers* to publicly thank her Good Samaritan.

Precinct 6 to be revived

By AL POST
MCN Staff Writer

Precinct 6 in Romulus -- cancelled out earlier this decade because of the impact of Detroit Metropolitan Airport growth -- is being revived, City Clerk Linda Choate said last week.

The precinct will include more than 1,000 registered voters at the Rudgate manufactured home subdivision, Choate explained.

The boundaries of the new precinct will be Ecorse Road to Van Born Road and Hannan Road to Cogswell Road.

Balloting will take place at the Rudgate club house...possibly as early as Feb. 22.

That is the date of the Year 2000 Republican Primary and also is listed as the day that city voters will cast ballots on the five city charter options.

Councilman William Crova urged that Choate obtain a long term written agreement with Rudgate officials to guarantee such voting rights in the future.

City Hall will close

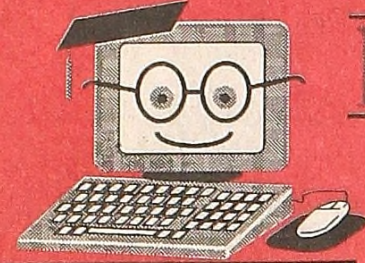
By AL POST
MCN Staff Writer

Romulus City Hall will be closed Thursday and Friday both this week and next.

That means the city Treasurer's Office will be closed on Dec. 30 and 31, Treasurer Pamela Kersey said.

Taxpayers who want to make any necessary arrangements to pay year end invoices should thus do so by Dec. 29.

Seasons Greetings



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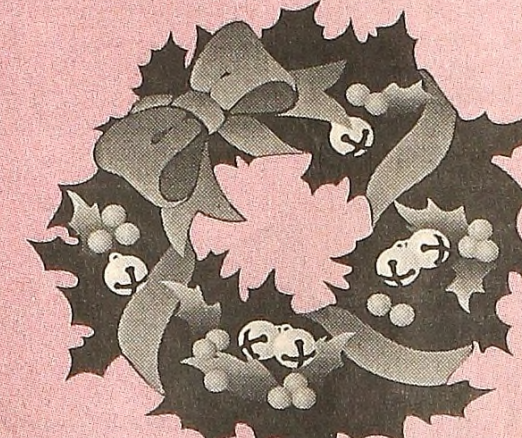
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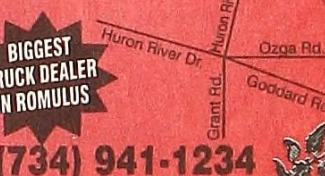


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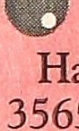
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—AUCTIONEER—



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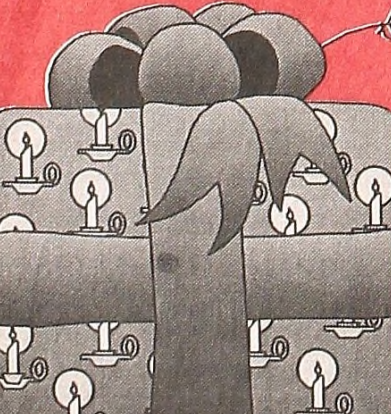
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Leonardo's Restaurant: where finest Italian dining memories begin

By AL POST
MCN Staff Writer

Leonardo's Restaurant -- once one of Romulus's hidden dining pleasures -- today is growing into a unique tourist attraction.

The family-owned eatery is steeped both in Italian culture and classic cuisine -- creating instant memories for both Metro area residents and tourists from around the U.S.

The strong cultural experience hits customers as they first open the massive entrance way doors and view a huge wall-size replica of a scene from Venice created by artist Gregg Bugala of Fenton.

The LiParoto family -- headed by brothers Joe and Vito -- pride themselves on the fact that hundreds of Michigan residents have used Leonardo's spacious dining

areas to host their major family or business events.

Repeat customers marvel that Leonardo's is as close to dining in Italy as you can get -- without leaving Michigan.

Repeat customers marvel that Leonardo's is as close to dining in Italy as you can get -- without leaving Michigan.

What makes Leonardo's so special is the wide variety of extras customers receive while dining there -- numerous Italian specialty entrees, both imported and domestic wines and a long term friendly wait-

staff that has grown to know many of the on-going cutomers.

Then on Friday and Saturday nights diners also are treated to an array of fine continental violin and guitar musical arrangements.

The Italian specialty menu includes a five layer baked lasagna that includes both meat and cheeses, fettuccine or linguine con vongole (that includes fresh clams sauteed in garlic) and seafood fettuccine served with shrimp, scallops and crab meats.

In addition, Leonardo's offers varied veal, seafood, poultry and beef dinners.

For those favoring hot drinks, Leonardo's also perks numerous coffee options, including Irish, Italian and Spanish coffees.

First time customers obviously are impressed with the huge Leonardo menu and the friendly atmosphere.

And if the in-house specials weren't enough, Leonardo's also offers scores of options of round and deep dish pizzas including Hawaiian, Mexican, Greek, vegetarian and seafood varieties. Cheese, vegetarian and seafood calzones also are on the extensive menu.

The carry-out section of the restaurant also serves large supplies of pizzas every week to Detroit Metro Airport customers and airlines.

Because of their enormous portions it is not hard to understand why professional wrestlers and pro-bowlers among others dine at Leonardo's while visiting the Metro Detroit area.

One San Francisco businessman revealed Leonardo's is one of his favorite Romulus



The family-built Leonardo's Restaurant sits back from Merriman Road in Romulus, providing adequate parking for all. MCN Special Photo

stops during his numerous visits to the Michigan area.

Obviously the LiParoto brothers have met most of their early goals.

When asked what goals remained for Leonardo's, Joe and Vito stated "getting our kids involved so they can later take over the business."

That goal already is in the making, they said, as several of their children are already working at the restaurant.

Leonardo's is located at 7575 Merriman Road in Romulus. The phone number is 734-326-2560.

Readers respond to councilwoman

Councilwoman Debbie Romak -- don't take this personal -- but various readers called the Romulus Roman office the morning of Dec. 14 to state they also didn't believe that the city's bid rejection was a business only decision.

Romak had urged the Roman to understand that her motion to reject the Roman's lone bid for official newspaper status was only a "business decision."

CITY OF ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

Please be advised, that the City of Romulus City Council has scheduled a Public Hearing to be held Monday, January 10, 2000 at 6:30 p.m. Prevailing Eastern Time in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174-1485. The purpose of the meeting is to hear comments on the proposed special assessment district for installation of street lighting of Sidney Road between Grant and Wayne roads.

All interested citizens are encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to comment on said request. Written comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon, Monday, January 10, 2000 and should be addressed to Linda R. Choate, Clerk, City of Romulus, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174-1485.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: December 23, 1999

THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING!

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN ORDINANCE 9-21-99

An ordinance to repeal all ordinances of the Charter Township of Van Buren Code of Ordinances pertaining to traffic and motor vehicles and to amend the Charter Township of Van Buren Code of Ordinances in order to adopt by reference certain State Codes and Amendments (past, present, and future) thereto, relating to traffic and motor vehicles.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN ORDAINS:

Sec. 1 All ordinances contained in the Charter Township of Van Buren Code of Ordinances and all amendments thereto for traffic and motor vehicles are hereby repealed in their entirety.

Sec. 2 In lieu of the above repealed ordinances, there is hereby adopted by reference the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code (MCLA 257.1, *et seq.*) in its entirety, including all amendatory and/or supplementary laws which may become enacted by the Michigan legislature on and after the date of this Ordinance.

Sec. 3 All other ordinances and parts of other ordinances in conflict with the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code are hereby repealed. If any conflicts are created by future amendatory and/or supplementary laws enacted by the Michigan legislature, then these ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the amendatory and/or supplementary laws will automatically be repealed with the enactment of said amendatory or supplementary laws.

Sec. 4 Enforcement of the newly created Ordinance shall comply with all statutory provisions enacted under the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code.

Sec. 5 In the event any provision of this Ordinance, or any part thereof, is repealed or stricken, the remaining provisions shall not be affected and the Ordinance shall continue with full force and effect.

Sec. 6 This Ordinance is declared to be an emergency ordinance and shall become effective upon publication by the Township Clerk in accordance with the statutes of the State of Michigan.

This Ordinance is hereby declared to have been adopted by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, at a Regular Meeting called and held on the 21st day of September, 1999.

YEAS: Budd, Clark, Hart, Herman, Rochowiak, Foster and King.
NAYS: None.
ABSENT: None

Publish: December 23, 1999

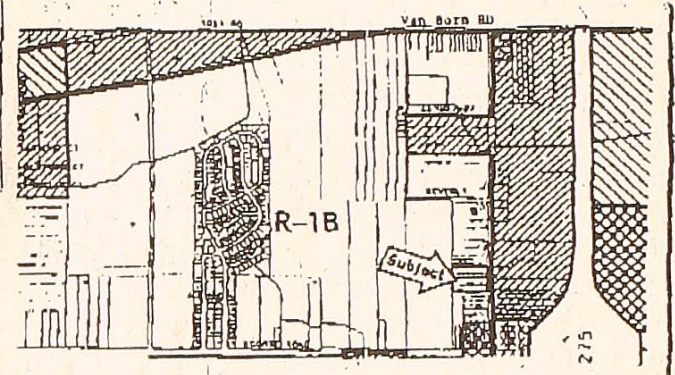
I hereby approve the foregoing Ordinance
Cindy C. King, CMC/AEE - Township Supervisor
Helen Foster, Supervisor

NOTICE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN ORDINANCE 9-7-99

Second Reading of Ordinance 9-7-99 for adoption.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE 6-2-92, AS AMENDED, OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BY AMENDING THE ZONING MAP IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN HEREBY ORDAINS:



Section 1. The Zoning Map in connection with the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Van Buren shall be amended so that the zoning of the following described property to wit:

Legal Description of Property: PARCELS V 125-83-008-99-0021-000, V 125-83-008-99-0023-000, V 125-83-008-99-0024-000, AND V 125-83-008-99-0025-000.

Section 2. All Ordinances and parts of ordinance in conflict herewith are repealed hereby to the extent of such conflict.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its adoption and publication.

Section 4. This Ordinance is hereby declared to have been adopted by the Township Board of Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, at a Regular Meeting called and held on the 21st day of September, 1999.

YEAS: King, Budd, Clark, Hart, Herman, Rochowiak and Foster.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

This Ordinance shall be immediately recorded by the Township Clerk in the Township Ordinance Book as soon as it is adopted, which record shall be authenticated by the signatures of the Supervisor and Clerk and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township within ten (10) days after its passage.

I hereby approve of the foregoing Ordinance.

Publish: December 23, 1999

Cindy C. King, CMC/AEE - Township Clerk
Helen Foster - Supervisor

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 21, 1999

Supervisor Foster called the meeting to order in the Board Room at 7:30 p.m. Present: Foster, King, Budd, Clark, Hart, Herman and Rochowiak. Absent: None. Others in attendance: Director of Development Kelley, Community Services Director Long, Deputy Public Safety Director-Fire Division Smolen, Planning and Zoning Coordinator Miller, Water and Sewer Operations Director Payton, Independent Contractor Basten and an audience of seven (7).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion King, support Clark to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

MINUTES: Motion Rochowiak, support Hart to approve the Work Study Session Minutes of September 7, 1999 as amended to note the correction of parcel number V 125-83-042-99-0001 to V 125-83-042-99-0001-001 in Unfinished Business item number 1. Carried.

Motion King, support Hart to approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 7, 1999 as presented. Carried.

Motion Clark, support Budd to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of September 7, 1999 as amended to note the correction of parcel number V 125-83-042-99-0001 to V 125-83-042-99-0001-001 in Unfinished Business item number 1. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Foster received a letter from the Tri-County Two Cylinder Club of Michigan expressing their appreciation to the Fire and Police Departments for their help at the Club's show.

The Conference of Western Wayne (CWW), a consortium of 18 Western Wayne County communities, received first place honors for the outstanding Joint Public Service Project as awarded by SEMCOG (Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments) for the CWW Fire Testing Program.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Motion Clark, support Rochowiak to approve the second reading of Ordinance 9-7-99 to amend the Zoning Ordinance 6-2-92, as amended, by changing the Zoning Map to rezone parcels V 125-83-008-99-0025-000, V 125-83-008-99-0024-000, V 125-83-008-99-0023-000 and V 125-83-008-99-0021-000, more commonly known as 6856, 6874, 6906 and 6930 Haggerty Road from R-1B (single family residential) to M-1 (Light Industrial) as recommended by the Van Buren Township Planning Commission and the Township's Planning Consultant McKenna Associates. ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas: King, Budd, Clark, Hart, Herman, Rochowiak and Foster. Nays: None. Absent: None. Carried.

*(A synopsis of Ordinance 9-7-99 follows the minutes. A complete copy is available for review in the Clerk's Office, 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, MI during regular business hours Monday through Friday.)

Motion Hart, support Herman to approve the Special Use request to construct two (2) drive-thru windows at the 11,060 square foot store (Rite Aid) on parcels V 125-83-118-99-0021-000, V 125-83-118-99-0022-000, V 125-83-118-99-0023-001, V 125-83-118-99-0023-002, V 125-83-118-99-0025-000 and V 125-83-99-0026-000 in accordance with McKenna Associates review letters of July 8, 1999 and September 15, 1999 and the Van Buren Township Planning Commission Minutes of June 9, 1999 and July 14, 1999. Carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Motion King, support Budd to enter into the Personal Services Agreement between the Charter Township of Van Buren and Annette Wells as presented with an effective date of October 1, 1999, and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the Agreement. Carried.

Motion Herman, support Clark to reappoint Marc Mroca and Ted Smolinski to the Planning Commission with terms to expire October 1, 2002. Carried.

Motion King, support Budd to reappoint Tony D'Onofrio to the Cable Commission with a term to expire October 31, 2002. Carried.

Motion Hart, support Clark to reappoint Ralph Nodwell to the Environmental Commission with a term to expire October 1, 2002. Carried.

Motion Hart, support Budd to reappoint Alfred Bittner, Norman DeBuck, Mark Leonard, Rick Kozole, Robert O'Keefe, Andy Winnie, Donald Wisner and Willard Hawley to the Lake Committee with terms to expire September 1, 2000. Carried.

Motion Budd, support Herman to adopt Emergency Ordinance 9-21-99 regarding revisions to the Uniform Traffic Code as incorporated in the Van Buren Township General Ordinance. ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas: Budd, Clark, Hart, Herman, Rochowiak, Foster and King. Nays: None. Absent: None. Carried.

*(A synopsis of Ordinance 9-21-99 follows the minutes. A complete copy is available for review in the Clerk's Office, 46425 Tyler Road, Belleville, MI during regular business hours Monday through Friday.)

Motion King, support Hart to approve Resolution 99-21, Storm Water Maintenance for Country Pond Estates Site Condominium Development as presented. Carried.

Motion Rochowiak, support Clark to approve Resolution 99-22, Storm Water Maintenance for Van Buren Truck Station Development as presented. Carried.

Motion Clark, support Herman to approve Resolution 99-23, Storm Water Maintenance for Briarwood Estates as presented. Carried.

VOUCHER: Motion Budd, support Hart to approve the September 21, 1999 voucher list as presented. Carried.

REPORTS: Supervisor Foster ordered the August 1999 Budgetary Report received and filed. ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Michigan Public Service Commission will be holding six Consumer Forums around the state to explain utility deregulation rules. The closest one in our area will be at Westland City Hall on Tuesday, October 5, 1999 at 6:30 p.m. Please call 699-8910 for further information.

Punt, Pass and Kick will be held on September 24, 1999 at 6:00 p.m. at the Van Buren Township Recreation Center. There is no charge for this event. Please call 699-8921 for further information.

The Recreation Department has tai'chi, various aerobic classes, kickboxing, ballroom and swing dance classes available. Contact the Recreation Department at 699-8921 for class dates and times.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion Rochowiak, support Budd to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Foster, CMFA - Township Supervisor
Cindy C. King, CMC/AEE - Township Clerk

Publish: December 23, 1999



Chef David Neal, second from right, and his top assistant Kevin Thomas are shown with co-Leonardo's Restaurant owners Joe and Vito LiParoto prior to the night's restaurant opening. MCN Photo by Al Post.



Friday and Saturday night customers at Leonard's Restaurant are treated to the musical tunes of the Continental Strings musical duo. MCN Photo by Al Post.

Sound-Off

Continued from page A-1

whether to keep it, but I didn't and turned it in.

Fortunately, the woman came back in two hours to retrieve it.

I just wanted to mention that during the holiday season when you're busy and leave things behind, hopefully an angel will come by and pick it up and return it to you.

We need cops people can look up to, not the blind pig kind

I think that those four Romulus police officers need to be fired and we need to hire people that are going to follow the law and be a good example to our community for people to look up to.

When our law enforcement officers behave like this, we're in big trouble.

CITY OF ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

Please be advised, that the City of Romulus City Council has scheduled a Public Hearing to be held Monday, December 27, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. Prevailing Eastern Time in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174-1485. The purpose of the meeting is to hear comments on the proposed special assessment district for widening and paving of Beverly Road between Middlebelt and Inkster Roads.

All interested citizens are encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to comment on said request. Written comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon, Monday, December 27, 1999 and should be addressed to Linda R. Choate, Clerk, City of Romulus, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174-1485 [phone (734) 942-7540].

Linda R. Choate, CMC4, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: December 16, 1999
December 23, 1999

THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING!

Man who gave away \$128 million is MCN's Person of the Year

They say Bob Thompson is a man of few words. Those close to him say the hardworking Van Buren man prefers to let his good deeds do the talking. The good deed he performed in July of this year will be remembered long after this holiday season.

Thompson gave away millions of dollars. Let me restate that. He gave away \$128 million! And his generosity, the subject of television newsmagazine stories and newspaper articles has propelled him to be named Michigan Community Newspaper's PERSON of the YEAR.

Thompson, owner of Thompson-McCully Co., the largest asphalt and paving contractor in the state, recently sold his company to Dublin, Ireland's CRH Plc for the incredible sum of \$422 million. The 40-year-old company, started from scratch by Thompson claims 550 employees at its plants, including one in Belleville.

All 550 employees shared in the owner's profits, many receiving checks of \$1,000,000.00. In explaining why he wrote the employee checks, Thompson said, "Our work is bid out, and there's a lot of competition out there. So, our people have to always do a better job than the next guy. And they have or else the company wouldn't have done so well."

Even part-time workers shared in the company's windfall. "We have a lot of people working for \$7 or \$8 an hour.

Some of them are single mothers taking care of their children," noted

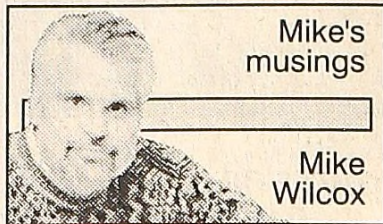
Thompson. "Their lives will be changed by getting \$20,000.00, at least for awhile."

20-20, the ABC newsmagazine series on three nights a week, featured the widow of a former Thompson-McCully employee. She was amazed when she got her check in the mail. Even retired employees got hefty sums. Thompson rewarded everyone that helped him along the way.

Most of us would die to be able to hand out the \$128 million. Not Thompson. He purposely was absent the day the checks were distributed. "They wouldn't have known what to say, and I wouldn't know what to say, so I stayed away from all that, explained Thompson.

During the holidays, wise people always insist it is better to give than to receive. Belleville's Bob Thompson has shown us all how true that is. He is truly an American hero, and we would all do well to follow in his footsteps. Now, Bob, if you could mail me over a check for a couple grand! Just kiddin'."

HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE. May the holiday season bring lots of happiness and joy to your household.



Mike's musings

Mike Wilcox

GETS A LITTLE RUSTY IF ITS ONLY OPENED 'ROUND THIS TIME OF YEAR!



Spirit, miracles get us through Christmas

FAMILY ROOM

By Karen Meier

From this "Family Room" to your family room come warm wishes for a most joyous and wonderful Christmas.

It's time to celebrate family and celebrate friends and celebrate our human spirit as it casts darkness from the darkest part of the year by lighting candles and Christmas lights and fires in

fireplaces. That Christmas comes at the darkest time of year is a miracle. I mean think of it, daylight and sunshine and warmth are all in short supply now in these late December days but we humans won't be defeated by such a thing. No way. We light the darkness, we warm the places we go, we know what to do. And we forge ahead.

And here we are teetering on the very, very edge, the very, very end of the millennium. It's just days now until it'll be all over and a new millennium will be born. Now I know some argue that the new millennium doesn't really get underway until January 1, 2001, but I'm stubbornly going to think of it as ending next week.

Next week?! Yikes!



Karen Meier

Have you been able to become Y2K compatible? Boy, if not, you might be in a major pickle next week and I'll be there right with you in that millennial pickle. I've heard dreadful things will happen and I've heard that nothing at all will happen. I guess I'll just have to find out in a few more days. And if there is trouble, I'll just count on that human spirit to know what to do. And then forge ahead.

For now though, seeing as how it's just days BEFORE Christmas as I write this, I know what the next few days will be like.

Crazybusy, chaotic, sleepless, exhausting, exhilarating, bright, light, warm and lovely. Christmas shopping, Christmas baking, Christmas cleaning, Christmas writing of cards, Christmas caroling, Christmas wrapping, Christmas church, all rolled into the next five days. Can it be done? No. Will it be done? No.

Wait. Wait a minute. That's not right. Of course it'll get done! It has to.

How? How, I'll tell you how. It'll be just like in years past. It'll be this: Hard Work and Miracles. That's the way it always is. Hard work (a mess of it) and a dusting of miracles. Every year some small miracles sneak in, basically unnoticed except by a trained eye, and "bridges" are built or bumpy ways are paved or pushing gently comes about. Sometimes it's friends, sometimes relatives, sometimes the children, sometimes even a stranger, who provide small miracles and make a huge difference.

It's about small miracles. Human spirit. It's all around us. It's time to celebrate and see. And forge ahead.

Merry Christmas Everyone! And a Happy Miraculous New Year to you and your families!

End-of-the century lists don't get it

The twentieth century can teach us a lot about irony.

When the century began, the world was at peace. Free Americans, Canadians, and Europeans could easily cross each others' borders. International trade flourished. People confidently looked forward to a century of peace, prosperity, and republicanism. On the heels of Charles Darwin, scientists boasted of solving the world's mysteries, everything but creation. The pleasures and virtues of middle class family life, perfected during the Victorian years, had become within reach of working class families. Free public schools promised to raise the literacy rate from 90 to 100 percent and teach knowledge and culture to all.

Three years later totalitarianism erupted in Japan, which defeated Russia in the first of a series of bloody wars killing millions that culminated in the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, the spread of totalitarianism, the spread of corporate fascism, and the decline of democratic republics to the point where only 38 percent of Americans voted in 1998.

In 1905, Albert Einstein proposed his theory of relativity, undercutting the prevailing certainty of scientific knowledge, eventually leading to Werner Heisenberg's uncertainty principle.

Middle class family life hardly outlasted the introduction of the pill in the 1950s. Free public schools, which collude in the drug-ging of adolescents, have



Ivan Helfman

caused a drop in literacy rates and taught contempt for America's melting pot and unilateralism (a foreign policy based on American interests).

Ironies abounded during the twentieth century as certainty crumbled.

Having lived half the century, I can see how blinded we are by our life spans. We form our certainties within our short stays on earth.

Being a child of the fifties - called the American High because that was when the USA ruled the sky, the oceans, and the streets of Detroit; manufactured over 40 percent of the world's goods; and was home to Aaron Copland, William Faulkner, Robert Frost, Jackson Pollock, Billy Wilder, and Tennessee Williams - my views are based on the fifties - the greatest invention of the century was roots rock and roll. (I don't know who invented it: the black rhythm and blues musicians like Detroit's Jesse Stone, the hillbillies like Highland Park's William John Clifton Haley, or the many Jewish rock and roll record company founders who told the groups what to sing?)

Roots rock shaped me so much that a doowop song will always lift my mood. Yet because of this predilection, I don't feel the same way about my kids' fondness for alternative music or about the rap music booming out of cars

cruising out of the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park. Yet I imagine that my kids look down on my musical tastes like I used to look down on my parents' love of big bands.

Because of these inclinations spawned by overlapping life spans, I find it fun but silly to see all the end-of-the-century lists proclaiming this or that the century's best.

All of these lists are filled with biases. Our late twentieth century politically correct blinkers prevents us from judging people the way they were in the past. After all, at the beginning of the century, every American saloon proudly hung a picture of Gen. George Armstrong Custer. Now he's a pariah.

During the 1920s, the entire country, including President Calvin Coolidge, stopped whatever they were doing to listen to *Amos and Andy* on the radio. Today racial humor gets you a year of sensitivity training, unless you're Howard Stern.

Having not lived through World War I and World War II as adults, it's almost impossible for most of us to accurately compare Woodrow Wilson to Franklin Roosevelt or to evaluate the hard decisions each made during extreme crises without our hindsight, so how can we rank them?

Instead of making blinkered end-of-the-century honor rolls, it would be more profitable for us to study the century and learn more about who we were, how we lived, and how ironic all our most cherished beliefs turn out after 100 years.

Surf's up!



Surf over to our new website at www.micomnews.com and read all of our editions online. Check out what's happening in Belleville, Canton, Inkster, Romulus, Wayne and Westland. Download our articles and pictures. Shop in our classifieds. Or Sound Off.



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MIKE WILCOX - PUBLISHER

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- The Westland Eagle

Letters from our readers

M I C H I G A N C O M M U N I T Y N E W S P A P E R S

Child support law will disproportionately jail minority fathers

To the Editor:

On Thursday, December 2, the Michigan House Committee on Family and Civil Law provided a modern day lesson on civics in Lansing.

Their hearing agenda included discussions on Senate Bill 757 which amends current child support enforcement statute "to set bonds for individuals arrested for failure to pay child support to not less than the total amount of the child support arrearage."

Current judicial practice only requires bonds in the amount equivalent to four weeks of child support payments.

While on the surface this appears to be fair, it insidiously ignores several truths. Many child support payers (mostly fathers) are in arrears because

they are unemployed, underemployed, or simply cannot afford it. Child support payments are calculated using imputed or potential incomes.

It is also a known fact that Friend of the Court records are a shamble and are frequently inaccurate. Finally, the mere act of setting such bond amounts by the legislature appears to be in violation of both the United States and Michigan Constitutions.

Although two dozen citizens testified against this bill over two plus hours, I watched most of this Republican controlled committee leave during the testimony to caucus with its sponsor and a Family Independence Agency lobbyist.

The Democratic committee members say this legislation will become law nonetheless. It simply represents too easy a 'vote-getter' for certain lawmakers by exploiting the myth that most men are irresponsible and are 'deadbeat' dads.

If this legislation becomes law, it will likely result in the increased disproportionate incarceration of low-income and ethnic minority fathers throughout the state. Michigan fathers had better watch out for this one, although it might already be too late.

Sincerely, Murray Davis
DADS OF MICHIGAN

Lottery prevents sinners from turning to God

To the Editor:

I would like to say two things to religious people that support the lottery by purchasing tickets.

First of all, the lottery gives hope to sinners who had no hope except to repent of their sinful ways and turn to God. Sinners are putting off the decision to turn to God hoping they will hit the big one on Wednesday or Saturday. I call the Lottery Satan's hope because it has opposed evangelism, social change, character development, and virtue.

Secondly, playing the lottery is poor stewardship and those guilty of poor stewardship need not expect the financial blessings of God. Either your faith is in God's Blessings or it is in a chance to be struck by lightning.

C. Gregory Dukes, Evangelicals to Stop the Lottery

Mayor Thomas not to blame for recycling failures

To the Editor:

Featured in the Eyewitness publication of December 5-11 [Soundoff] a citizen commented on the recycling program in Westland.

Mayor Thomas initiated this on a voluntary basis and has frequently appeared on cable television explaining and promoting recycling.

The Westland city calendar

describes details and other information also, representatives of the firm that collects curb side items visit schools within Westland to educate students on the importance of recycling. Several mini-documentaries have aired on cable television, literature is available at city hall.

In the event this program fails, Mayor Thomas is not to blame.

Sincerely,
Walter Ingram, Ph.D.

Policemen were punished fairly

To the Editor:

A letter was written in the last edition that I was appalled with and I need to answer.

Dear Sir, I have never met a perfect person in my 68 years of living. I hope that no one in your family ever needs the help of a policeman or fireman. I also assume that you have never done anything wrong.

What would happen if you had a daughter and she was raped? If you had a son and he was seriously injured in an accident? If your house was robbed and your wife beaten by the thief?

What if your house caught fire? I know our Romulus Police & Fire Departments would give 110% to help.

Yes, these young men were wrong and they were punished. There are degrees of wrong and I believe they were dealt with fairly. Some people feel they should have been names but it was at the discretion of Chief Kirby to do what he felt was fair and necessary.

I thank all our police officers for doing a good job for this community. I have needed help from time to time and everyone of the policeman have been very helpful, kind and professional.

Thank you Romulus Police Department and also thanks to our Romulus Fire Department.

Dolores Witzgall
Romulus

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Question: My child's teeth are not straight. When should I start thinking about braces?

Answer: This is a question we often get from concerned parents. Their child may have some crowding of the teeth or teeth that are erupting at different angles than the rest.

What I can tell you is that generally, children are not placed in full braces until they lose most of their baby teeth, usually around age 9-11. However, there are many situations which occur before this age which may warrant some intervention by the orthodontist.

Some children, for example, may need early expansion of one or both of the jaws to allow proper growth of the permanent teeth. Others may need to wear retainers or have appliances placed which guide one or several teeth into proper alignment. Many children who lose baby teeth prematurely due to cavities or accidents may need to wear space maintainers to assure that the space for the permanent teeth is not lost.

The only way for you to know is to make sure you bring your child for regular checkups. If we see anything which may need attention, we can refer you to our in-office orthodontist for a consultation and proper treatment. As the saying goes, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Matthew Schaub, DDS
Newburgh Heights Dental Group

If you have any dental questions for Dr. Schaub, send them to:

Newburgh Heights Dental Group

Attn: Dental Questions

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Your questions could be answered in the next issue of this paper.

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People in the news

December 23, 1999

Page A-6

M I C H I G A N C O M M U N I T Y N E W S P A P E R S

People in the news...

By AL POST
MCN Staff Writer

Air Force Reserve Airman Angela D. McGuire, daughter of Deborah A. Feger of Romulus, has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Tex.

During the six weeks of training, McGuire studied the Air Force mission, customs and received special training in human relations.

She also earned credits toward an associate's degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Two Canton students at Michigan State University earned a 3.5 or better grade point average and were honored by the university.

The students are Juliana Nell Crenshaw and Michelle Rene Smith.

Dr. Barbara Meyer Lucas has been promoted to corporate

director, Quality and Performance Improvement, for the Oakwood Healthcare System.

She has been a board-certified pediatrician with the Oakwood system since 1986. She most recently served as Director of Quality and Performance Improvement for the Ambulatory Services Division.

Jill A. Everett of Canton earlier this month was awarded a bachelor of music degree at Miami University.

Rebekah Joan Boley, daughter of Stephen and Kathleen Boley of Dearborn Heights, was born Sept. 25, 1999 at Garden City Hospital.

She weighed eight pounds and four ounces at birth and measured 20 and a half inches. She joins a sister, Brianna, age two.

Her grandparents include Donald Barber of Wayne, Barbara Barber of Belleview, Fla., Barbara Boley of Columbus, Ohio and Ray and Sharon Boley of Brighton.

Painful nerve disorder support group is growing

By AL POST
MCN Staff Writer

A support group for Wayne County residents suffering from Trigeminal Neuralgia – a medical problem that causes an excruciating facial pain – now meets at 6 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month.

Contact person Pamela A. Biske said the medical woe is also known as Tic Douloureux. It affects the fifth cranial nerve – which is the largest of the body's 12 pairs of cranial nerves.

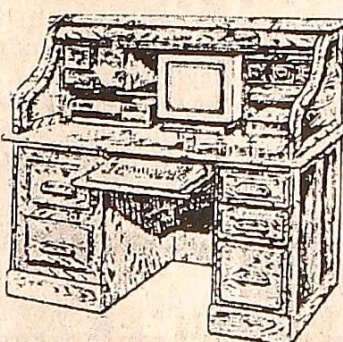
While it is not a fatal disease, Biske related, it becomes a chronic problem that can lead to depression and thoughts of suicide.

Biske, who suffers from TN, said she has been painfully impacted with the medical problem for over 14 years.

The support group meets at the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan, 261 Mack Blvd. Room 815 (Eighth Floor) in Detroit.

The informational phone line is 313-745-1203 and the support group leader's phone number is 313-891-6270.

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Christmas party

Over 70 Westland area youth were treated to a Children's Christmas Party earlier this month under the sponsorship of the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3323 Women's Auxiliary. In addition Westland DARE officer Tom Lockinski provided 72 identification photos of the youths. Shown in the photo are Lockinski and Auxiliary Vice President Pam Janis. MCN Special Photo

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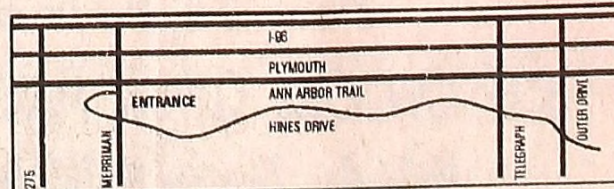


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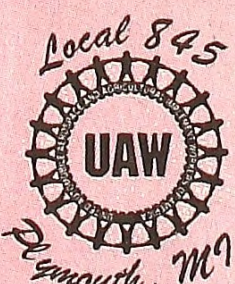
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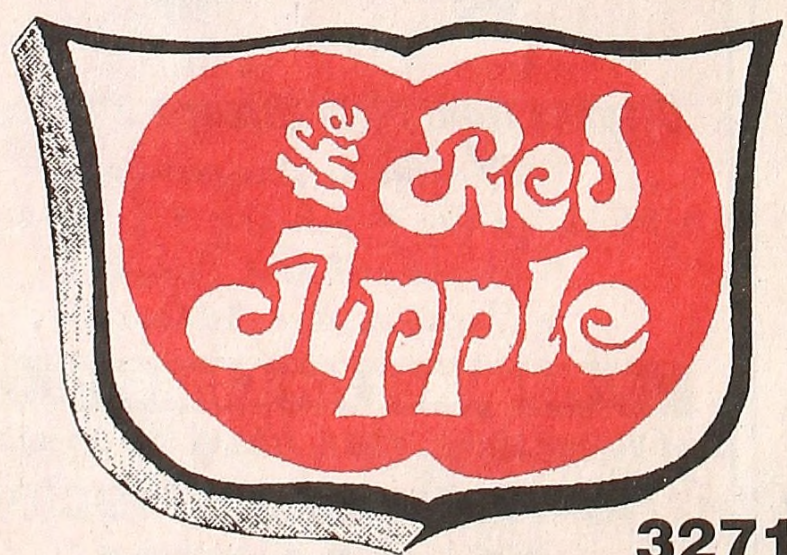
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SPORTS

December 23, 1999

Page B-1

Belleville, Romulus roll to No. 4

Tigers knock off 2 champs

By TOM MOORADIAN
MCN Staff Writer

After handing Plymouth-Salem, the defending Western Lakes Conference champs a crushing 64-39 defeat on Tuesday, Belleville survived a final River Rouge possession and shot to edge the defending Mega Conference, Red Division champ, 50-48, Friday night.

The victory stretched the Tigers' winning streak to four, and they remain undefeated in the 1999 phase of the season.

They have some exceptional athletes over there.

- Bob Brodie

Unlike the Salem game when Belleville burst to a 15-5 lead in the first period, then coasted to a 34-13 lead at the half, the Tigers found themselves in a dogfight right from the start against a worthy Mega Red defending champ that hung tough right down to the last shot.

In fact, the lead exchanged hands nine times in the final eight minutes, and it was only after Chris Miller's short jumper that found the mark that gave Belleville the lead for good, 44-43. But there was still more than three minutes left on the clock.

When Will Lilly nailed a three-pointer to give the Tigers a four-point cushion with two minutes left, Rouge came right down and cut the lead again to one on a trey put up by Lamar Toney.

But Lilly's free throw with only three seconds left put the clincher on to a game that both teams desperately wanted.

Kevin Harrison, coming off of an outstanding football season, managed to score a game-high 21 points to lead the Tigers, while Toney's 16 points topped the Panthers.

Tied at 12 all after one, Belleville had a 23-22 advantage against a Rouge team that looked vulnerable around the perimeter.

Salem's inability to convert easy puppies - the Rocks missed seven layups in the early going - led to their demise against a Belleville team who tantalized the crowds with their quickness and passing game.

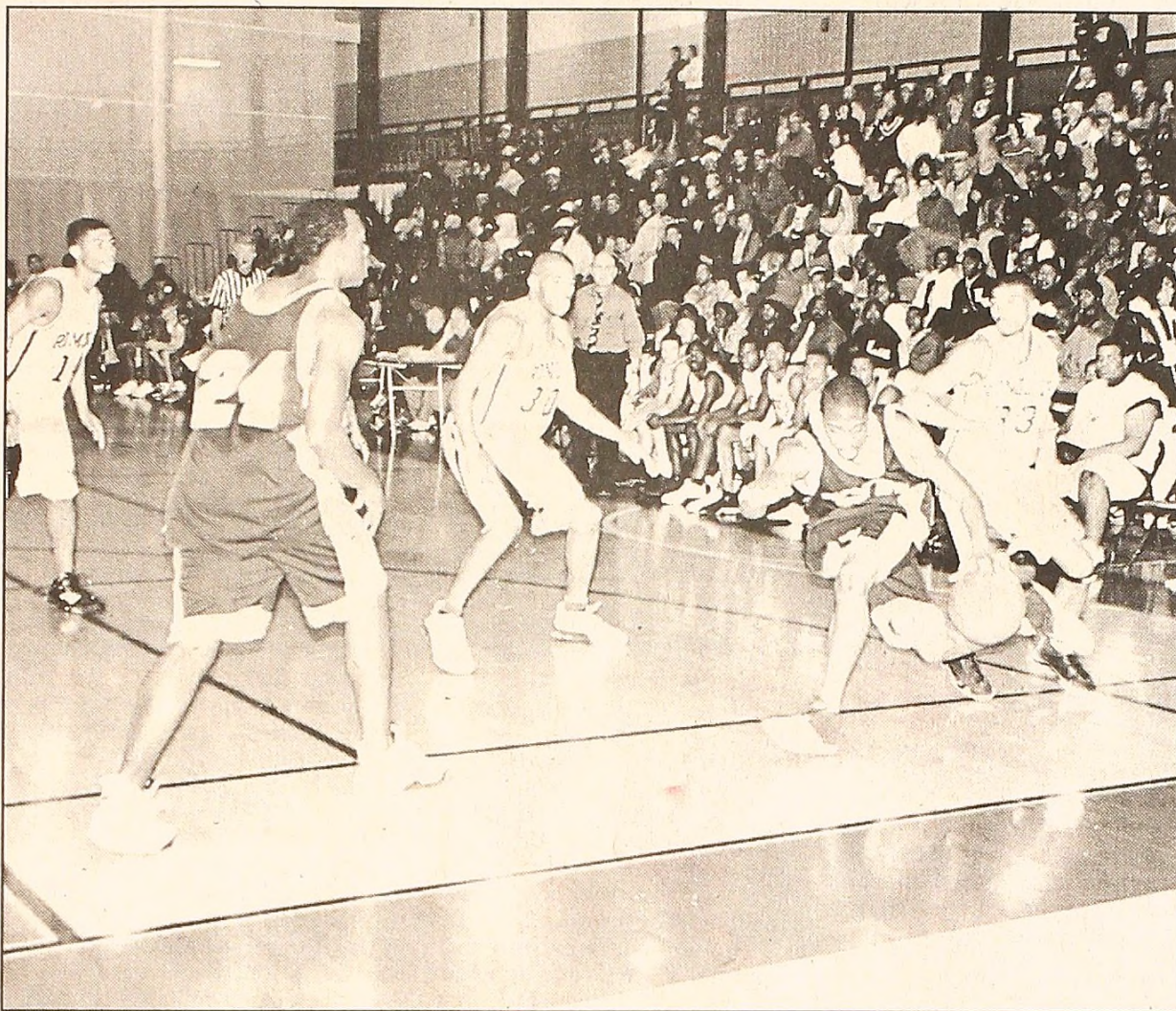
"They are awesome," said Salem coach Bob Brodie. "They have some exceptional athletes over there."

But Brodie also cautioned his opponents that his Rocks will rise above the turmoil.

"Don't count us out," Brodie added.

Salem got 17 points from Matt McCaffrey, the only Salem player to score in double figures. Balanced scoring by the Tigers offset McCaffrey's efforts.

Harrison again topped his teammates. He scored 14 points.



Romulus's Byron Cole (23) goes up for a jumper (photo at right) against a Wayne team that caused the undefeated Eagles problems right down to the final whistle. That's 6-8 Chris Garwood muscling his way in the pivot against a Zebra defense that proved tough to crack. In the photo above, Wayne's Jeff Logwood (24) provides the blocking for his teammate to use the baseline to the basket. Romulus's David Jones (33), Kevin Thomas (30) and John Penn (14) also are pictured in the action. Photos by Brown Special Services

New Inkster coach has many challenges

By TOM MOORADIAN
MCN Staff Writer

Michael Prais, an assistant to former Inkster High varsity wrestling coach Sam Ellis, has been named by the Inkster Board of Education to succeed Ellis as head coach.

The 30-year-old Prais, who prepped at Dearborn High and wrestled for a coaching icon, Ed Lanzi, said "that the job will be a challenging one which I gladly accept."

"Right now we just don't have the numbers," Prais added. "I do have a couple of quality wrestlers, but we don't have a complete line-up and that's going to hurt."

Ellis built the Inkster program from scratch and managed to field a competitive team in the Mega Conference Gold Division. His successor

Wrestling begins at 6 p.m.

has to field a team in the tougher Blue Division. And he is the first to admit, "that with only seven wrestlers on the roster, it is going to be tough."

On Saturday, the Vikings competed in the annual Garden City Invitational where they had two medalists - one a gold.

Inkster's junior heavyweight, Robert Jackson, defeated Dave Packard of Lutheran West to capture a first place.

"Robert has a lot of potential," Prais noted. "We need more like him in our line-up."

Inkster also received a

bronze-medal winning performance from veteran grappler Robert Hudson, who defeated Dearborn Heights' Jason Aberconbie in the consolation finals. 9-4, to finish third in the 135-pound class category.

There was also one other notable achievement posted by an Inkster wrestler at the tournament. First-year wrestler Tony Davis carded his first-ever victory in the 119-pound class.

Davis pinned Redford Union's Dan Raschke to walk off the mat a winner.

The Vikings were represented by Clinton Jones in the 140-pound class, and also had Marc Franklin wrestle at 152.

The Vikings return to the mats tonight when they host Blue Division opponent, Dearborn Heights Crestwood.

Wrestling begins at 6 p.m.

Clutch free throws lift Eagles over Wayne, 62-55

By TOM MOORADIAN
MCN Staff Writer

Before one of the largest crowds to watch a high school basketball game in recent years, undefeated Romulus sent Wayne Memorial home a loser Friday night.

Coach Guy DelGiudice's Eagles sank 10 (of 14) clutch free throws in the stretch that helped seal a 62-55 decision over a tough Wayne in the Mega Conference Red Division basketball opener for both teams.

"It was another one of those hard-fought Romulus-Wayne Memorial battles," said DelGiudice afterwards. "We just had that last push in the final quarter that shoved us over the top."

The Eagles made 10 of 14 free throws in the last quarter, a quarter they outscored their visitors 16-8. But it was the Zebras who galloped to an early lead and managed to stay in front until the final four minutes of the game.

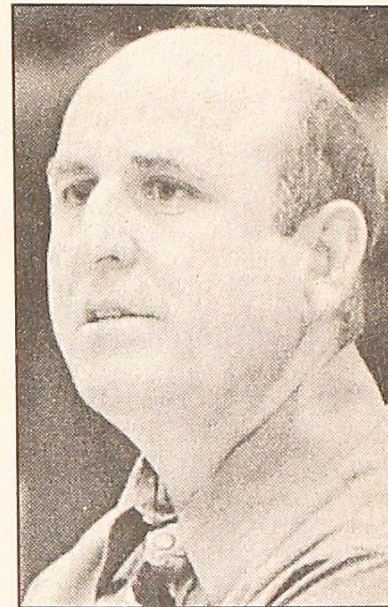
"I felt we played an excellent game against an excellent Romulus team," Henry said. "They do have an excellent team, but our kids hung tough right to the end. I also felt that the free throw line was the difference."

Wayne sank nine of 16, as compared to Romulus' 27 of 33.

The two teams were tied at the end of one at 12, then Wayne managed to eke out a 12-11 advantage in the second quarter to go up 26-25. There was definitely no breathing room after the half. Each team put up an equal number (21) of points.

But Romulus, with its 6-8 center Chris Garwood playing a critical role in the center lane, held the Zebras to eight points. The Eagles scored 16 in the final period as Garwood managed to block five Wayne shots and his intimidating presence under the boards proved valuable to the Eagles.

Romulus' irreplaceable forward Kevin Thomas drilled 28 points to lead the field. Teammate Byron Cole knocked



Guy DelGiudice
Off to 4-0 start

down 19 points. The best of Wayne was Shane Nowak, who tossed in a team high 13 points.

Earlier in the week, Romulus turned back Dearborn Heights Robichaud, 79-66, in a Mega Conference crossover game. Up by as much as 20 points with 2 1/2 minutes left in the game, the Eagles broke loose after being down 21-19 in the first quarter, then they caught the Bulldogs before the intermission (37-35) and never trailed after the half.

Robichaud found senior guard Kevin Thomas unstoppable in this one. Thomas scored a game high 33 points and Cole finished with 20. Garwood added 12 while 5-10 sophomore guard Deon Solomon finished with 10. But Solomon was all over the Bulldogs as he came up with seven steals, eight assists and nine rebounds.

"I've never seen anything like it in recent years," said DelGiudice, commenting on Solomon's performance.

Chris Walker continued to provide the spark for Robichaud as he scored 24 points and Marcus Johnson tallied 12 for the Bulldogs, who are off for the rest of the year and will resume action on Jan. 4 when they take a 2-2 overall record to Inkster.



Wayne coach Chuck Henry is the center attraction during a time out in the crucial showdown against Romulus. Henry's Zebras had things under control until the final four minutes when the Eagles managed to can 10 of 14 clutch free throws to win their fourth straight. Photo by Brown Special Services

Salem to host Holiday Wrestling Tourney

By TOM MOORADIAN
MCN Staff Writer

Plymouth-Salem and coach Ron Krueger tuned up for their own holiday wrestling tournament by whipping Clio and giving traditionally tough Redford Catholic Central a scare on the mats last week.

Salem will host its Holiday Invitational beginning at 9 a.m. on Dec. 30. Some 20 local and area teams have accepted the invitational to compete.

Among local teams that will be represented at the Salem Tournament are Belleville and Westland John

Glenn.

Other teams vying for the invitational gold and trophies include: Adrian, Ann Arbor Pioneer, Brighton, Livonia Churchill, Farmington, Monroe Jefferson, Monroe, Garden City, Greenville, Flat Rock, Howell, Melvindale, Trenton, Liv-

onia Stevenson, Ann Arbor Huron, Ypsilanti and Novi.

In their triangular meet at RCC, Salem came out on the short end of the mats against Catholic Central 40-35, while the Rocks crushed Clio, 63-12.

It was an excellent tuneup for the tournament,

according to the veteran Salem coach.

Six Salem wrestlers posted victories over their RCC and Clio opponents. The duo-opponent winners included: Ron Thompson (119), Rob Ash (125), Lucas Stump (130), Steve Dendrinos (135), Josh Hender-

son (140), and Mike Poteney (189).

Krueger's grapplers who also defeated their Clio opponents are: Heavyweight Zach Jensen, Nick Goethe (103), Nick Monrodias (112), Mike Pasternak (145), Andrew Bennett (160), and Phil Portellos (171).

Franks plays Santa as Glenn gets an early Christmas gift

By TOM MOORADIAN
MCN Staff Writer

Westland John Glenn received an early Christmas gift, and they can thank Michael Franks for delivering it under the most adverse conditions.

The gift, in the form of a 47-45 victory over state-ranked Adrian, arrived with an at-the-buzzer basketball by Franks, a junior, who made a mad dash for a rebound and got it in the air and into the net just in the nick of time.

It was also a Franks's corner shot that found the mark that completed a Glenn rally that tied the game at 43.

In the closing minutes of the game, Glenn moved ahead 45-43 when Ben Harris sank a short jumper, but Adrian managed to answer with a pair of free throws.

With the game tied at 45, Glenn came down court and maneuvered for the "last shot", but the Rockets played

Glenn will host the 7:30 p.m. Jan. 4th non-conference game.

their hand prematurely and the ball bounced off the rim and Franks got to the loose ball first. He released the desperation shot from the edge of the lane and as the airborne ball headed for the basket, final buzzer sounded. The ball as if suspended in air, slowly made its way to the rim, then slipped into the net and broke the silence in the gym and the deadlock.

Everyone on the bench and in the stands went wild.

"To come back with two big baskets in a close game like that is really something," said Glenn coach Mike Schuette, referring to Franks' incredible finish. "For once, Lady Luck

didn't turn her back on us."

Of his 10 points, Franks scored five of them in the final 2:17 seconds of the game.

But it was Eric Jones, who kept the Rockets within striking distance most of the game. Jones came up with a couple of steals that were turned into easy baskets. He contributed a team high 19 points in the Rockets' second victory in three starts.

Glenn's 6-8 center Yaku Moton added eight points and 14 rebounds, while Harris finished with 10.

The Rockets ended the 1999 phase of the season, and the 20th Century with a victory. The Rockets will return to the hardwood in the 21st Century, and their first opponent is an much-improved Ypsilanti.

Ypsilanti was picked as a pre-season Mega Conference, Red Division title favorite by conference coaches.

Glenn will host the 7:30 p.m. Jan. 4th non-conference game.



Romulus's 6-8 Chris Garwood goes up for an easy "puppy", but the Eagles had a tough time beating Wayne, which led until the final four minutes of their Mega Conference, Red Division showdown. Photo by Brown Special Events

Lansing is no match for Plymouth-Canton wrestlers

By TOM MOORADIAN
MCN Staff Writer

Lansing Everett and East Lansing last week were no match for Plymouth-Canton wrestlers.

Coach John Demsick's Chiefs crushed Everett, 63-23, and also carded a 54-27 victory over East Lansing to stretch their string of dual meet victories to 4-0 on the year.

"Though we had strong performances from our guys in Lansing," Demsick said, "we

still have a long way to go. We can do more to finesse our moves. We are a pinning team, and that says a lot."

Canton received several notable performances from its team members. Joe Faraone and John Pocock continued to lead the Chiefs as both turned in victories by pins.

Also, Kyle Pitt, Doy Demsick, Greg Musser, Kevin Rodriguez, Mike Siegrist and Mike Bonner all picked up two wins.

"The closes matches of the

day were won by Doy and Greg," Demsick added. "They are two wrestlers who we have high hopes for and who need to develop through close matches, coming out on top."

Doy Demsick edged East Lansing's Mifo Langeni, 7-6, and Musser managed to win in overtime against Everett's Travis Gordon, 7-5.

Ozzie Wagner, wrestling junior varsity, won with the fastest falls of the tournament. He also pinned both of his opponents.

WYAA seeks basketball players

With the season about to begin, officials at the Westland Youth Athletic Association are looking for future basketball stars to play in their Senior Division.

"Most of our leagues are pretty well filled up," said Keith DeMolay, WYAA publicist, "but there is one excep-

tion. We do need some players to complete our rosters for our senior division."

Prospective participants should be in the 15 to 18 age group. However, 18-year-olds must be enrolled at a high school in order to be eligible to compete in the league.

Registration will be ac-

cepted on Wednesdays and Saturdays at the Lang Compound.

Those who need further information are invited to contact DeMolay by dialing 734-722-1251.

There is a small registration fee.

Underdog to have plenty of fight

By TOM MOORADIAN
MCN Staff Writer

With only seven players on the roster and aligned in a division that one of the coaches says "is awesome this year", Inkster will begin its valiant bid for basketball respectability next week.

Newly-appointed Viking coach, Alvin "Bo" Dukes, will unveil his 1999 Vikings at the Motor City Invitational on Dec. 27 when Inkster clashes with Detroit Community at the University of Detroit High School gym.

Dukes, a former All-American from Inkster High who starred at Xavier College before heading for Europe to play professionally, says that his ball club has talent, but the lineup is thin and untested.

"Most of the teams in the area have had at least three to four games under their belts, but the Motor City Classic will be our first, so obviously we're running behind the rest of the pack."

Dukes says he has seen some of the team in the division play and he is impressed by the caliber of players.

"I managed to see the Robichaud and Romulus game the other night, and I was impressed. Both have excellent teams." (Romulus managed to beat Robichaud in a crossover Mega Conference game, 79-66. See Related Story).

Dukes also said that the division the Vikings will be playing in (Red Division) is filled with pedigreed basketball players and coaches.

Hate to put a scare into the new Viking coach, but Wayne Memorial coach Chuck Henry has said that the Mega Red Conference this season "is awesome."

The Vikings are definitely an underdog in a division that includes Belleville (4-0), Romulus (4-0), River Rouge (2-1), Wayne Memorial (2-1), Ypsilanti and Willow Run.

Dukes will be banking on three seniors who have been designated as tri-captains of the Vikings. The trio includes 6-6 James Swannigan, Randall Gaines and Alphonso Clark.

The rookie coach has four others working out and they include football star Michael Hunter, Jerrel Ramey, Darius Kincannon and Ken Fickling.

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Deck the halls with holiday hoop tournaments

By TOM MOORADIAN
MCN Staff Writer

While most will be celebrating the holidays with friends and loved ones, a select number of high school basketball teams will be competing in basketball tournaments in Detroit, downriver and "Up North".

Off to an unprecedented 0-2 start after losing back-to-back non-conference games to Monroe and Belleville, Plymouth-Salem and coach Bob Brodie will travel to Grosse Ile next

week to take part in the Islanders' Annual Holiday Tournament.

"I've never been 0-2 before this," said Brodie, after Belleville embarrassed the Rocks 64-39 last week. "We got a lot of work to do, but we will be ready when our league opens."

Salem is scheduled to play Herman High, a team out of Ontario, Canada, in the first round of the Grosse Ile tournament. The tip-off for the opener is at 5 p.m. Monday. The second game pits the host

Detroit Community will provide Dukes and the Vikings their first test of the 1999-2000 campaign.

against Redford Thursday.

The championship will be decided on Tuesday, with the losers playing the consolation game at 5 p.m.

Two other local teams are slated to see action in Detroit.

Wayne Memorial and coach Chuck Henry will attempt to rebound from their first setback, a 62-55 loss at the hands of undefeated Romulus, on Wed., Dec. 29 at the Superintendent's Classic.

The classic will be staged at 6 p.m. in the Cobo Arena. The Zebras have to contend with Detroit Mumford, one of the powers in the Detroit Public School league.

Inkster and coach Alvin "Bo" Dukes will also be making their belated basketball

start at a Detroit Invitational. The Vikings have been invited to play in the Motor City Classic, which will be staged Monday at the University of Detroit High.

Detroit Community will provide Dukes and the Vikings their first test of the 1999-2000 campaign.

**Wishing you hope and peace
for the holidays from our family
to yours...Merry Christmas!**

Bulldogs fall in division opener

By TOM MOORADIAN
MCN Staff Writer

Romulus apparently softened up Dearborn Heights Robichaud for Dearborn Fordson.

After suffering a 79-66 defeat on the home court to undefeated Romulus, coach Monte Dennard's Bulldogs opened up the Mega Conference White Division basketball campaign Friday night against title hopeful, Fordson, and came out of the hoop duel on the short end of a 64-58 count.

The Bulldogs found it difficult to defend the perimeter shots as the Tractors managed to take a small lead thanks to junior guard Said Nimer who tossed in 20 points.

Nimer and Bassem Salameh proved to be Robichaud's nemesis as the two accounted for 40 of the Tractors' 64 points.

Robichaud countered with Chris Walker's outstanding individual overall performance. Walker who has scored in double digits in all four of his team's games, walked off the hardwood with 15 points, his team's high.

The loss dropped the Bulldogs to a .500 overall (2-2) record. They're 0-1 in their division.

The loss also brought the curtains down on the 1999 phase of the season for the Bulldogs. Dennard and his players will return to action on Jan. 4 when they clash with a very thin-in-numbers natural rival, Inkster.

Inkster, a Red Division affiliate, will host the Mega Conference crossover game.

Canton seeks players

If racquetball is your game, Canton Parks and Recreation officials would like to talk to you.

Canton is putting together a racquetball league that will commence action on Jan. 12.

The 13-week league will take to the court at 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Body Rocks-Racquet Time in Livonia. There is a \$100 per person registration fee, and the fee will cover all league court-time and awards.

Players also will be divided into divisions based upon the player's individual ability level.

There is no residency requirement to compete in this league and players are urged to sign up as soon as possible.

Canton Parks and Recreation Services are located at 46000 Summit Parkway.

For further information, please telephone 397-5110.

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Area churches gear up for Christmas Eve services

By AL POST
MCN Staff Writer

Most western Wayne County Christian churches -- both Catholic and Protestant denominations -- will be climaxing the Advent Season tomorrow night with festive and choral Christmas Eve services.

The church services will in most cases feature the Biblical story from the gospel of St. Luke...outlining Mary and Jos-

eph's trip to register their family in the city of Bethlehem...their search for lodging on Christmas Eve...and Jesus Christ's birth in a stable.

Following comes the visit of the three reported Wise Men and their individual gifts to the holy infant.

The larger churches also offer a choice of Christmas Eve services -- usually one about 7:30 p.m. for the entire family and another at midnight for adults.

Candle light services also are among the featured options for local churches.

Second only to the reading of the chapter of St. Luke that outlines Christ's birth, is the

singing of classic Christian carols including *Silent Night*, *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* and *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*.

Many churches also are

planning Sunday and New Year's Eve services that will be looking into not only a new year, but the year 2000.

Area pastors will be using an assortment of scripture les-

sons to tune their messages into what their membership should expect in the next century.

Most churches have their holiday schedules on calendar boards outside their churches.

Black churches warned to work against epidemic

By AL POST
MCN Staff Writer

Black churches in western Wayne County, Detroit and other Michigan locations were urged recently to join in the battle against the epidemic called AIDS.

Those attending the screening of the program *The Black Church Speaks! AIDS: Be Knowledgeable* at the Hartford Memorial Baptist Church in Detroit were struck by the huge numbers listed of AIDS victims.

Also representatives of the state Department of Community Health also presented a report entitled *HIV/AIDS: The Epidemic in Detroit*.

The keynote address was given by former U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders -- who urged Black churches to raise awareness of AIDS prevention and treatment issues.

She also asked African-Americans living with HIV-AIDS to become more knowledgeable about HIV-related

anemia, a condition affecting up to 95 percent of people living with HIV during the course of the disease.

Harry L. Simpson, executive director of the Community Health Awareness Group, stated "as the most important institutions in our communities, churches have the obligation and the capability to educate people about HIV prevention and treatment and to provide compassion to individuals and families affected by the epidemic."

Pernessa C. Steel, founder and CEO of The Balm In Gilead Inc. (a group seeking to mobilize Black churches to become community centers for AIDS education) declared "Too often, we hear that Black churches are ignoring AIDS. This simply isn't true."

A chart showing the number of Detroit AIDS cases listed 4,006 (or 69%) as being African-American, 1,596 (or 28%) being white, 123 (or 2%) being Hispanic and seven cases (or one percent) being Asian.

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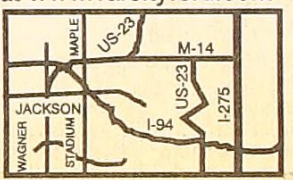
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Safari is a step up from minivans

By KAREN WILCOX
MCN Automotive Writer

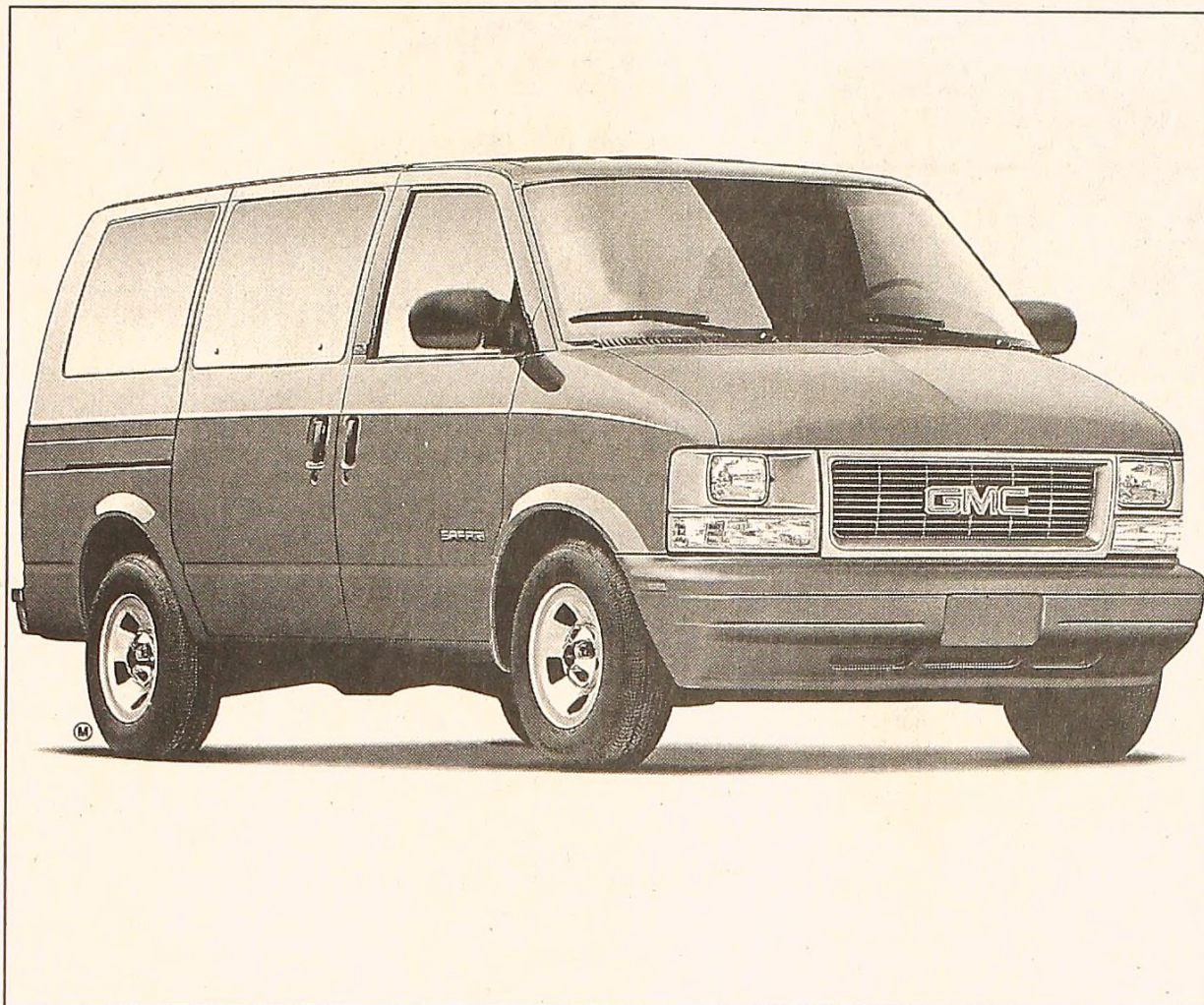
From the start, the GMC Safari makes a big impression. This 2000 full-size van has just about everything you could want in a vehicle.

This one is great for family, can fit all of your friends, carry golf clubs or groceries, and still have plenty of room left over. Eight people can fit in the Safari with ease, and everyone gets a first-class seat.

Safari isn't a competitor or minivans, it's a step up from them. Since families come in a variety of sizes, Safari offers a variety of seating arrangements. With the choice of a bench seats or bucket seats in the second row, you can have seating for five, seven or eight passengers. And the best thing is that the bench seats are easily removable.

The fold down consoles in the center and rear SLT bench seats have dual cupholders in addition to a small table where the kids can play their games when traveling for those long distances. With the available center-seat radio controls, you (or more probable your kids) can control six different functions from the rear seat. Dual volume control, and two headphone jacks are just part of the package.

People who need their space also will appreciate the comfort and convenience of this one. Safari is suitably equipped with air



2000 GMC Safari

conditioning, front bucket seats, speed-sensitive power steering, am/fm stereo, and a four-speed automatic transmission.

With this one, you could actually tow a minivan. Once you have loaded up the kids, you still have to load your all important stuff,

and tow your boat and trailer. Not a problem! With Safari, you have enough power to do it all. This van comes with a 190 horsepower

Vortec 4300 V6. It is the most powerful that one can get in a mid-size van. Safari's long-life components make it able to go over 100,000 miles before its first scheduled tune-up.

Safari is capable of towing up to 5500 pounds, and holding up to eight passengers. And there still is 41.3 cubic feet of usable space.

While in the Safari, you realize just how smooth and quiet the ride is. It is a real breeze to drive, especially considering its size. Every gadget in this one is geared towards the driver. You don't have to bend, lean, or stretch to reach anything.

This GMC comes in three different styles. SLT, SLE, and the SLX. And seating from five to eight. The overhead console, houses the available HomeLink system, which lets you activate three functions by remote control, garage door, house lights or even an estate gate.

Some of the choices that are offered both as standard and available features are five different wheel types, dual front power outlets so you can plug in a laptop, a fax machine, or other accessories. Available audio system including a cassette player, equalizer and CD player with eight speakers, and a rear power outlet in the cargo area to plug in an air compressor to fill up those all important swim rafts or rubber boats.

Acceleration was pretty good, considering the weight of the vehicle. Merging was not a problem,

”
This one is great for family, can fit all of your friends, carry golf clubs or groceries, and still have plenty of room left over.

nor was taking off from a traffic light. Gas mileage was okay about 14 miles per gallon in the city, and 20 on the freeway. Price, not too bad either. My test vehicle came with just about every option available and was priced out at \$28,682. However, you can get the base price of \$24,000.

As your family gets bigger, you travel more, load more, and haul more. Your whole lifestyle grows. That is why I would consider the Safari by GMC. If you like to travel in comfort, class, and style, choose this one you can't go wrong!

OBITUARIES

ALLARD, DORIS A. (GRANNY)
BERGERON, MICHAEL L.
BIEGANSKI, HENRY S.
BINGHAM, ROBERT D.
BIRK, BERNARD
BOLES, ALTON G.
BUTLER, CATHERINE
EMERSON, MARY
FLOOD, ELLOUISE

ALLARD, DORIS A. (GRANNY)
Age 84, of Belleville, MI passed away December 13, 1999. Beloved wife of the late Kenneth. Dear mother of Kea Strubank. Also survived by 1 sister, 1 grandchild, and 3 great grandchildren. Services were held December 16, 1999 at David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville. Cremation rites were accorded.

BERGERON, MICHAEL L.
Age 39 of Westland, MI., passed away Dec. 16, 1999. Dear father of Amanda, Branden and Corey. Also survived by his mother Eileen and the late Leonard Bergeron, and 2 sisters. Services were held Dec. 18 at Uht Funeral Home in Westland. Cremation rites were accorded.

BIEGANSKI, HENRY S.
Age 73. Dear brother of Ted, Bernice Braizu and the late Adeline Miller. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Services were held Dec. 20 at St. Mary Catholic Church of Wayne. Arrangements by Harry J. Will Funeral Home in Wayne.

BINGHAM, ROBERT D.
Age 71, of Inkster, MI. Passed away November 4, 1999. Beloved husband of Earlean. Dear father of Robert, Gregory, Dennis, Camelia, Aaron, Robin, and George. Also survived by 12 grandchildren, and 1 great grandchild. Services were held November 8, 1999 at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness. Arrangements by Penn Funeral Home.

BIRK, BERNARD P.
Age 73, of Westland, MI., passed away November 28, 1999. Beloved husband of Marjorie. Dear father of Patricia (Elmer), Alice (Eugene), and the late Diane. Also survived by 5 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren. Services were held November 30, 1999 at Uht Funeral Home in Westland, MI. Cremation rites were accorded.

BOLES, ALTON G.
Age 77, of Livonia, MI, passed away December 15, 999. Beloved husband of Charlotte. Dear father of John, Ronald, Donna, Kathleen, Dennis, Gerald, Deanna, Karen, Suzanne, and William. Also survived by 23 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, and 1 sister. Services were held at the Vermeulen Trust 100 Funeral Home in Plymouth with interment at Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth.

BUTLER, CATHERINE
Age 62, of Inkster, MI. Passed away October 26, 1999. Beloved father of Cathy, and Tania. Also survived by 1 brother, 2 sisters, 3 aunts, 1 uncle, and 6 grandchildren. Services were held November 1, 1999 at Penn Funeral Home in Inkster with interment at Knollwood Cemetery.

EMERSON, MARY MARGARET
Age 74 of Garden City, MI., passed away Dec. 16, 1999. Beloved wife of the late Donald. Dear mother of Donna (Max), Rebecca, David (Carole), Rev. Wesley (Rhonda) and the late Reginald. Also survived by 1 brother, 1 sister, 11 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Services were held Dec. 20 at Uht Funeral Home in Westland. Cremation rites were accorded.

FLOOD, ELLOUISE
Age 73, of Ypsilanti, MI., passed away December 11, 1999. Beloved wife of George Joseph. Dear stepmother of Christine and Patricia. Also survived by two brothers, four grandchildren, and one great grandson. Preceded in death by 1 brother, and 3 sisters. Services were held December 15 at Uht Funeral Home, in Westland. Cremation rites were accorded.

Treat yourself this holiday season.

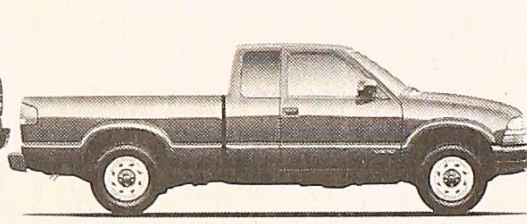
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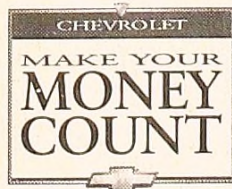
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Seniors on the go

MICHIGAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

Check your family's roots at the Henry Ford Museum...

By AL POST
MCN Staff Writer

Area African-American families will be given a chance to explore their roots each weekend in February at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn.

During the week high school concerts will be offered in the museum's Anderson Center Theatre.

"We're providing programs to not only entertain, but to nourish the soul," said Faith Kerr, special programs team leader for the museum program unit.

The Daughters of the Union Soldiers of the Civil War are



Blues musical offerings will be offered in February by radio host Robert Jones. MCN Special Photo

and chef, will offer highlights of African-American food recipes.

offering research for family history on weekends.

Harold Paige, food historian

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<p>'94 GRAND MARQUIS LS Leather, includes warranty, only 65,000 miles.</p> <p>\$9,995</p>	<p>'98 WINDSTAR One owner, low miles, leather, warranty, V-6, very clean.</p> <p>\$16,995</p>
<p>'96 FORD TAURUS WAGON 34,000 miles, room for the whole family, factory warranty.</p> <p>\$10,995</p>	<p>'95 GRAND MARQUIS LS One owner, 43,000 miles.</p> <p>\$11,995</p>

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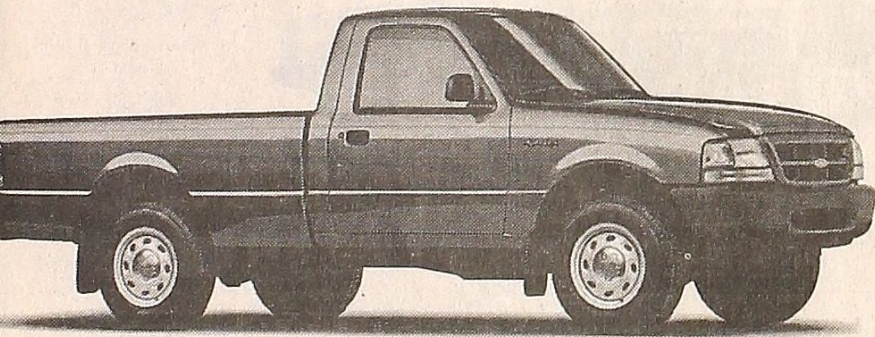
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Christmas shopping: trends, tidbits and tips

For the kids



These new additions to the toy department are too cute for words. The Walk 'n Wag Baby Pluto walks, wags, woofs, and shakes his head like a real puppy without the need to paper train. And little Rock 'n Roll Ernie is darling enough to make even Sesame Street look cool.

For the host

You can't go wrong with a custom made taste-of-Michigan gourmet basket from Northern Michigan Beef Jerky Co. in St. Clair Shores. The company carries a complete line of Traverse City cherry products, Ted Nugent Jerky, Pinconning Cheese, Michigan pasties, Upper Peninsula smoked fish, Mackinaw Island fudge, and AAA Rated #1 in the State of Michigan Copper Harbor Michigan Salsa. Add to that 16 varieties of fresh, tasty beef, buffalo, venison, elk and turkey jerky, thimbleberry jam and Michigan maple syrup, and it's like eating Michigan. Visit them in person at their store at 11 Mile and Harper Avenue, or call (810) 773-3101 for a catalog. Franchising opportunities also available.



Believe it or not, Furby is still holding his own this holiday season. The Super Kmart in Canton reports that they've been flying off the shelves at a rate of six or seven cases a day. But don't count on finding Furby Babies. If the shipment has come in, chances are, they're sold as soon as they're unpacked.

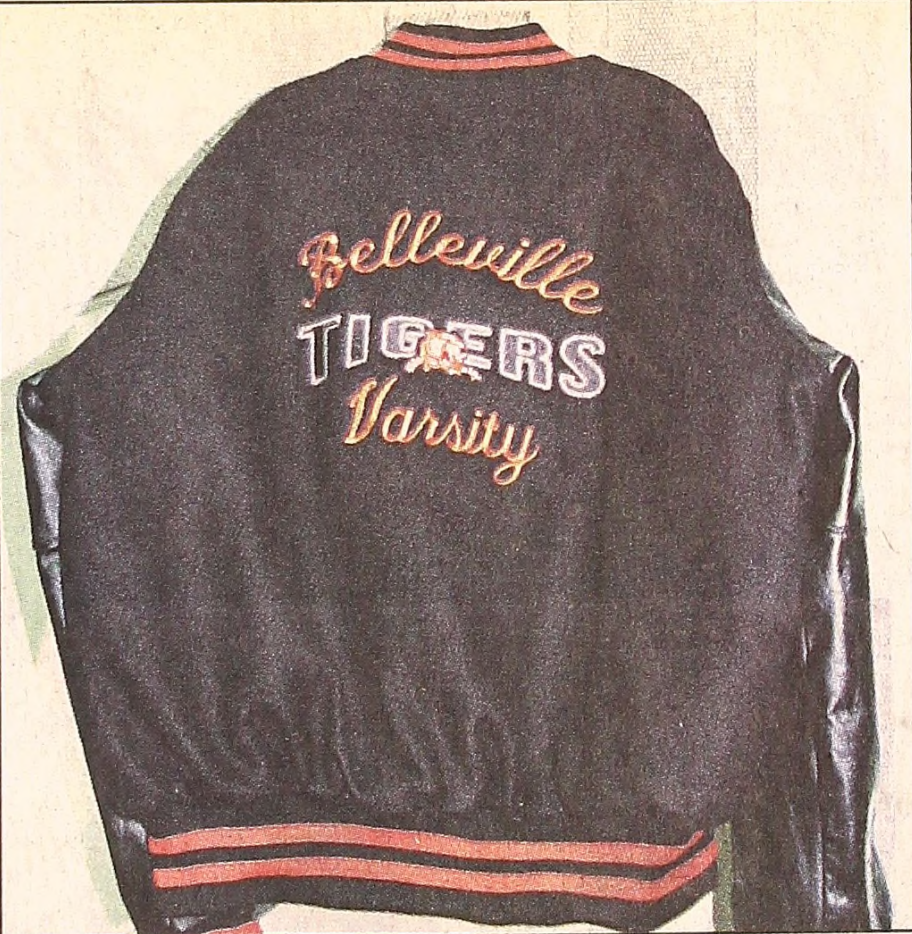


For Dad

Whether your Dad is out of state, or living right next door, he's sure to appreciate some of the "local flavor" gifts available from Anchor's Aweigh at the Westland Shopping Center. Light houses, tee shirts, books and wind chimes will remind anyone of summer vacations past.



A varsity jacket--need we say more. This one, from Wright's Sports Plus in Belleville, tops the list for student athletes. It's a gift that will go off to college with the student, and for years after will hang in the closet, to be dusted off and worn at the beginning of every sports season, as a little reminder of the best years of his or her life.



Great gift ideas for anyone on your shopping list

Ready or not, the busy holiday season is just around the corner, and with it comes holiday gift giving. You can show your friends and family just how much you care by getting a gift that's right for them.

- **Gameboy Color** - It's the most popular portable gaming system with tons of cool titles available. The new "Pokemon Yellow" game should be the hit of the season. The Color Gameboy system is \$69.99 with games available for \$19.99 to \$29.99.
- **PC Software** - Best Buy has hundreds of great computer games available for toddlers to

teenagers (prices between \$19.99 and \$59.99). Favorites include Barbie Gotta Groove, Toy Story 2 Action Game, Microsoft Flight Simulator 2000 and Sim City 3000.

- **Movies** - Movies are a great stocking-stuffer idea, with prices ranging from \$6.99 to \$14.99. A few holiday favorites include Pinocchio, available October and Inspector Gadget, available December.
- **Have a chef in your family?** These gifts are sure to spice-up the kitchen:
 - **Popeil rotisserie** - You've seen it on TV, now you can get it at Best Buy for only \$179.99. Great for

chicken, turkey and roasts, this product reduces fat in the cooking process and seals the moisture in meat, resulting in very flavorful food.

- **George Forman Grill** - This compact electric grill helps take the fat and grease right out of your meal. Available in mid-size for \$59 and family-size for \$99.

Show your loved ones' a holiday that is full of fun by giving them gifts that improve their time at work or play.

Courtesy of Article Resource Association, www.aracopy.com, e-mail: info@aracopy.com.

Ten holiday stocking stuffers for the angler

The time has come when shoppers throughout the country begin their search for the perfect holiday gift. But finding that perfect gift can sometimes be difficult. Luckily, with more than 50 million anglers throughout the United States, odds are there is a special person in your life who loves to fish.

So to help you and Santa, here are ten sure-fire ideas for stocking stuffers and gift items that will positively warm the heart of your favorite angler this holiday season.

Fishing Lure
Fishing lures are essential to any angler's success on the water. Every angler will appreciate the ideal stocking stuffer - a new lure to add to his or her tacklebox. You can find fishing lures at any tackle shop and most major sporting goods stores.

Topping the list of this year's perfect stocking stuffers is a lure from the No. 1 fishing lure company in the world - Rapala (www.rapala.com). Rapala lures are the world's best-selling lures and ac-

count for more world-record fish than any other lure on the market. Best of all, Rapala lures catch a variety of fish species - from bass and crappie to trout and northern pike.

This year, the new Rapala Skitter Pop No. 5 or the Rapala Risto Rap No. 4 will surely generate excitement from your angling elf.

The Skitter Pop, which has become one of the most popular Rapala lures of all time, is ideal for instigating explosive strikes from fresh- and saltwater fish. Introduced in 1998, the Risto Rap is one of Rapala's most versatile lures. Each lure has new sizes available for the 2000 fishing season, so it's a good bet the angler in your life probably doesn't have one. About \$5.

Normark Weigh-In Scale
Tales about the "big one" seem to get bigger with time, but with the Normark 5 lb., 15 lb. or 50 lb. Weigh-In Scales, at least you can make an honest liar out of your favorite angler. These electronic digital scales provide superior accuracy. They're also water-resis-

tant against failure. Perfect for tournament anglers, too. Between \$25 - \$50.

Fishing Reel Tune-Up
Rarely do anglers regularly tune their fishing reels. That's too bad, because sand, dirt, grease and jelly donuts can significantly impair a reel's capabilities and life span. Many bait and tackle shops offer fishing reel tune-ups, and if you can't find a local shop to do it, you can try Bass Pro Shops' Outdoor World Rod & Reel Service (800/227-7776). About \$10 - \$20.

Fillet Knife
Another great stocking stuffer is the Rapala Fish 'N Fillet - the best-selling fillet knife in the U.S. and Canada. It's a classic that's been around for more than 30 years. Featuring a handsome birch handle and an ultra-sharp blade, the knife comes in four sizes, ranging from four-inches to nine-inches. The most popular all-around size is the six-inch blade. About \$15.

Half-Day of Fishing with a Fishing Guide

One of the most amazing things about fishing is there's always something new to learn. If you really want to score points with your angler, arrange for a half-day of fishing with a local fishing guide or pro. The name of a good guide or pro can be easily obtained by placing a telephone call to a nearby fishing tackle shop. About \$75 - \$150.

Soft-tackle Pack
The traditional steel or hard plastic tackle boxes are passe. Today's fishing pros use soft-tackle, cloth-shell tackle boxes that include a series of internal plastic storage cases and boxes for lures, reels, line and everything else an angler needs for a day on the water. Plano, Extreme and TackleLogic offer the best items in this category. Between \$35 - \$75.

Lure Retriever
Don't let your favorite lure get away. A lure retriever will retrieve all types of lures that become stuck on rocks, tree limbs or weeds. Lure retrievers come in a variety of shapes and sizes; most can fit in a tackle box. Between

\$10 - \$20.

Fishing Magazine Subscription
If your favorite angler isn't already subscribing to a fishing magazine, there are dozens of magazine titles to choose from. As for good, all-around fishing-only titles, your best bets are In-Fisherman or North American Fisherman. For bass anglers, the granddaddy of magazines is Bassmaster, which comes with a membership to B.A.S.S. You also may want to stop by a nearby fishing tackle store to see if there is a local fishing newspaper or magazine the angler in your life may enjoy. About \$25/year.

Polarized Sunglasses
Protect your eyes from the sun's dangerous ultraviolet rays with a pair of polarized sunglasses. Polarized glasses also help anglers see fish and underwater structure more clearly. Check out H2Optix, Ray-Ban or Costa Del Mar brand sunglasses. From \$20 - \$120.

Global Positioning System (GPS)

Never get lost again. These small hand-held receivers digitally track satellites for precise location information. Anglers can find their favorite fishing hole - or find their way home. Check out Garmin, Magellan or Lowrance for the latest in GPS technology. About \$100 - \$150.

By the way, if you're still unsure what to get your favorite fishing buddy, you and Santa will never go wrong with a gift certificate from a nearby fishing tackle shop or sporting goods store. Even stores such as Wal-Mart, K-Mart and Bass Pro Shop offer gift certificates that can be used in their fishing and outdoor sporting goods departments. If you do decide to order from a catalog company, make sure to get your order in at least two to three weeks ahead of time to ensure availability of your gift and enough time to ship your order.

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Queen ea. pc.	\$79 ⁹⁵	\$109 ⁹⁵	\$139 ⁹⁵
King ea. pc.	\$89 ⁹⁵	\$129 ⁹⁵	\$159 ⁹⁵

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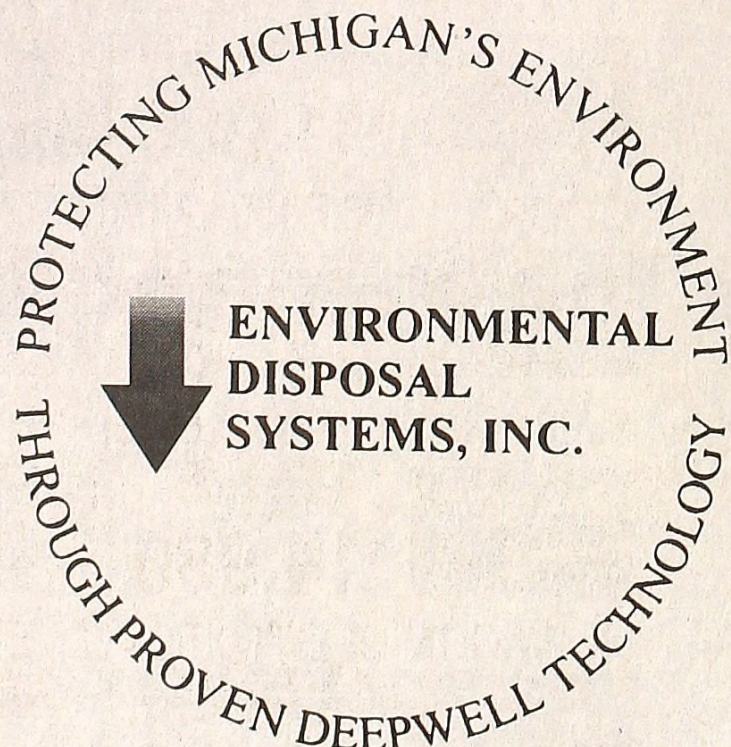


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Romulus, Michigan
Phone: 955-2100



YOUR CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND INTERESTS

DR. M.L. KING PRESENTATION will be offered by former Detroit Police Chief Isaiah (Ike) McKinnon at 7 p.m. Jan. 17 at Kresge Hall on the Madonna Campus in Livonia. McKinnon will speak on King's philosophy of non-violence. There is no charge for admission and the public is invited. For more information call 734-432-5541.

PARENTING HELP NEEDED for first time parents is being requested by Starfish Family Services. Experienced parents are being asked to share that experience by answering questions from new parents. Call "After Baby Comes Project" at 734-425-7977, ext. 117 for more information.

RESPITE FOSTER PARENTS SOUGHT by Evergreen Children's Services of Detroit. Such personnel can earn \$40-\$60 a day for giving foster and adoptive parents some relief and relaxation on a part-time basis. For more information call 248-557-5800.

LEGAL RESEARCH ON THE INTERNET workshops will be offered by Detroit attorney Mary Meinzinger Urisko at Madonna University in Livonia on Jan. 21-22 and Jan. 28-29.

For more information call Jennifer Cote, director of Madonna's Legal Assistant Program at 734-432-5549.

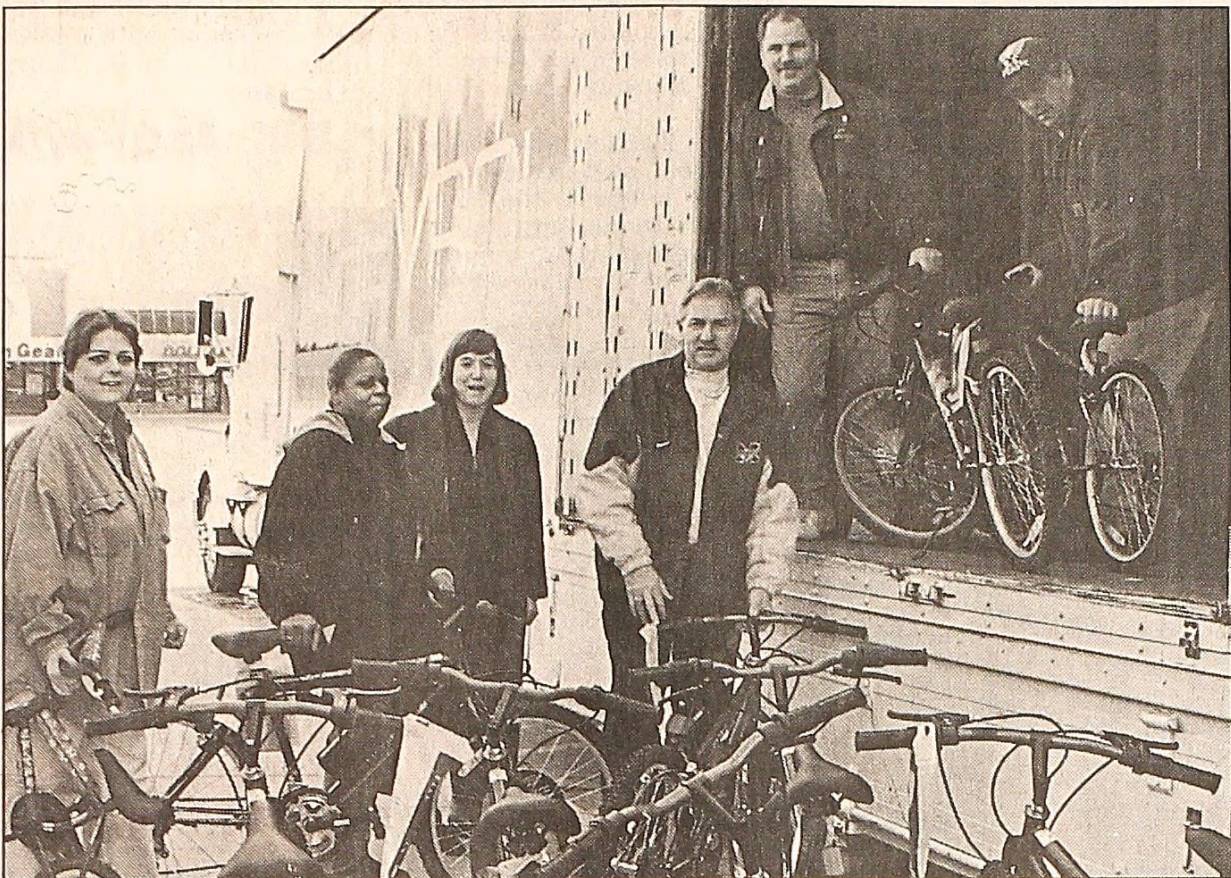
PARKINSON DISEASE SUPPORT GROUP will hold its next meeting at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 9 at the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, Building 5305, nearing Parking Lot P. Exercise therapist Nia Aguirre will be the guest speaker, so wear appropriate exercise clothes. For more information call 734-741-9209.

CHRISTMAS-EVE SERVICE is slated for 5 p.m. at the Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 46001 Warren Road in Canton. The Biblical scripture will be based on the birth of Jesus Christ. In addition Christmas carols will be sung by the Singers of the Spirit, Canton's Voice and the congregation.

SANTA VISITS TONIGHT from 5 to 8:30 p.m. at the Old Country Buffet, 5849 N. Sheldon Road (at Ford Road) in Canton. Restaurant operators state there will be fun for both children and adults. Santa will offer special gifts and will be available for photos.

CANTON CHAMBER LUNCHEON Radio personality and motivational speaker Mark "Doc" Andrews will provide an inspirational message for the new year at noon Jan. 5 at the Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway. The cost is \$15 for a member and \$20 for a non-member. Reservations need to be made by Jan. 3 by calling 734-453-4040.

WOLVERINE DOG TRAINING CLUB will kick-off its new beginners obedience class on Jan. 11 at 35582 Elmira in Livonia. A class for puppy owners begins on Jan. 12. The classes last for about two months. Call



General Motors Powertrain Engine employees donated more than 200 bikes this Monday to the "Toys for Tots" program sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps. Shown loading the bikes on a transport truck are from left Robin Muncie of Westland Toys R Us; Evelyn Craig, Nancy Sarpolis and Mark Marek of the G.M. Powertrain team; and in the truck are Brian Nickerson and Mike Wilson of Chevrolet Creative Services. MCN Photo by Ed Sims.

Bikes, helmets donated

By AL POST
MCN Staff Writer

Santa will be placing fun and safety under hundreds of Christmas trees this weekend, thanks to the employees and management of the Romulus GM Powertrain Engine Plant.

The plant is donating a safety helmet for each bike purchased by employees this holiday season.

The bike/helmet gifts were turned over to the U.S. Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" program.

It was announced each helmet meets strict Consumer Product Safety Commission and Snell Memorial Foundation safety standards.

"Safety is important for everyone, both on the job and off," said Steve Somers, plant manager. "We hope our donation will help kids get an early start in developing good safety habits."

Somers cited the efforts of Evelyn Craig and Mark Marek

in coordinating the second annual drive.

Craig is the UAW Local 163 Community Services Coordinator and regularly organizes in-plant charitable activities.

Marek, who began the bike program last year, works in the plant's Production Control and Logistics (PC&L) department.

Other members of the planning team include Ron (Cowboy) Price, Rick Gerow and Nancy Sarpolis. More than 20 employees helped collect the 200 bikes during the holiday campaign.

Last year the plant donated 150 bikes to the "Toys for Tots" program. In earlier years, the plant employees collected toys for the Marine Corps program.

Local businesses also helped in this year's drive, including:

Westland Toys R Us Store Director Marc Hackman arranged for free assembly of the bikes.

248-476-8650 for more information.

DETROIT BOAT SHOW SLATED is slated from Feb. 12 to 20 at the Cobo Center in Detroit. More than 300 boat dealers and marine businesses will be at the show. Kids clinics and antique and classic boat exhibits will be offered. Cost is \$9 for adults and children (with adults) under 12 will be admitted free. Senior citizens over 62 will be admitted free on Monday Feb. 14. For more information call 800-224-3008.

PLYMOUTH YMCA MEETING

is slated at 1 p.m. Jan. 26 at Ernesto's Restaurant, 41661 Plymouth Road in Plymouth. Purpose is to elect officers, renew terms of board members and to conduct other business.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS for adults who have lost a loved one are being sponsored by Arbor Hospice and will be held Mondays 7 to 8:30 p.m. or Fridays 3 to 4:40 p.m. from Jan. 10 to March 3. Groups will meet at Arbor Hospice, 7445 Allen Road, Suite 230, in Allen Park. To register or obtain more information call 313-383-8800.

Unwed Westland moms gave birth to 352 babies

Back in 1997 (latest recorded listings) 352 unwed Westland mothers gave birth to babies, which was 27 percent of the total births for the city's moms.

That compared to a 49 percent total county wide, the Right Start in Michigan's Cities reported last Thursday.

Other Westland birth listings include: 98 of the city's births were to moms under the age of 20 and 199 were born to mothers with less than a 12 year education.

The racial breakdowns included: 1,180, white; 82 black; 49 Asian; and 14 other.



Five generations

A recent visit here united five generations of the Schreider family. Joining in the group is Mrs. Leatha Hutton of Caspian Court in Westland; her daughter, Normalee Schrieber and her son, Ron; his son, Ray and his son, Jacob, all of Honeoye, N.Y. MCN Special Photo

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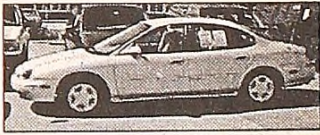
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'98 TAURUS SE

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'98 CONTOUR SVT

AIR, P.S., P.B., P.W., P.L., TILT, CRUISE, AM/FM CASS., TACH, POWER MOONROOF, LEATHER, REMOTE ENTRY, ANTI-LOCK, ALLOY WHEELS.

\$17,980



'98 ESCORT ZX2

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'97 MUSTANG COBRA

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'98 F-150 LARIAT SUPERCAB 4X4

AUTO, AIR, P.S., P.W., P.L., CRUISE, TILT, AM/FM CASS., TACH, ALUM WHEELS, P SEATS, CAMPER SHELL.

\$24,180



'99 F-250 SUPER CAB SUPER DUTY

AUTO, AIR, P.S., P.B., P.W., P.L., CRUISE, TILT, AM/FM CASS., CD, TACH, ALUMINUM WHEELS.

\$25,680



'96 F-150 EDDIE BAUER

AIR, P.S., P.B., P.W., P.L., CRUISE, TILT, AM/FM CASS., TACH, ALUM WHEELS, P SEATS, CAMPER SHELL.

\$14,980



'99 TAURUS STATION WAGON

V-6, AUTO, AIR, P.S., P.B., P.W., P.L., AM/FM CASS., TILT, CRUISE, DELUXE WHEEL COVERS.

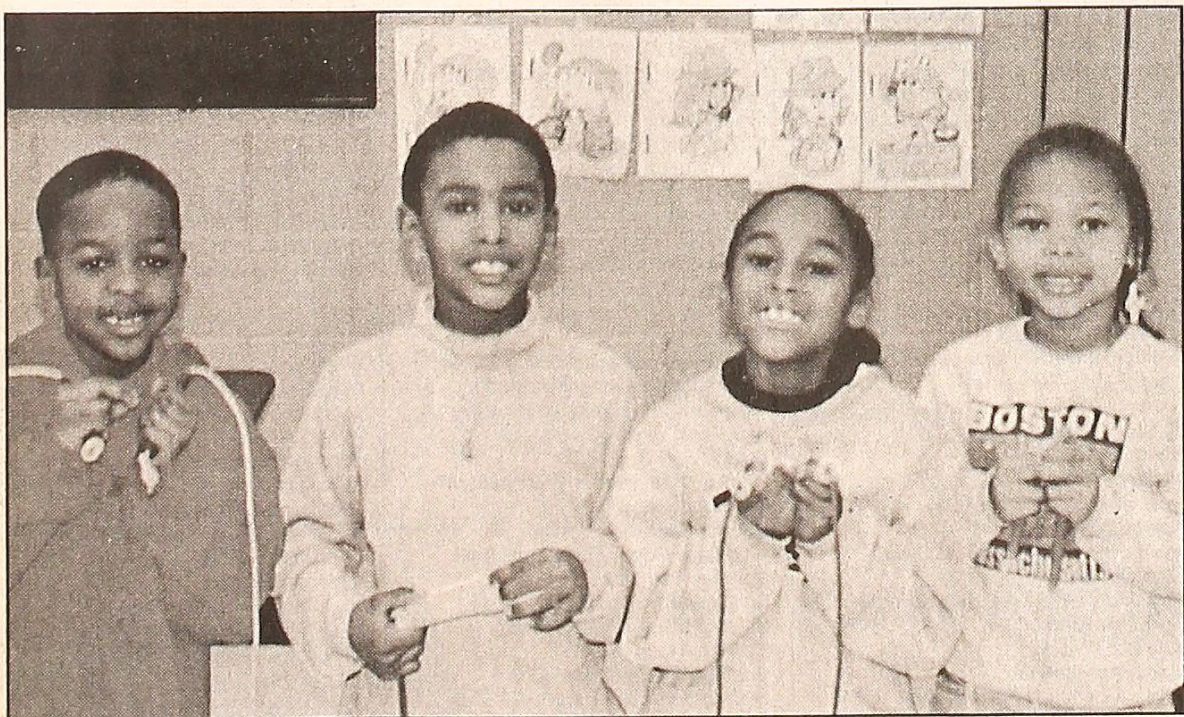
\$15,980



'98 EXPEDITION EDDIE BAUER 4WD

V-8, AUTO, AIR, P.S., P.B., P.W., P.L., CRUISE, TILT, AM/FM CASS., REMOTE CD, TACH, REMOTE ENTRY, REAR AIRHEAT, LEATHER, DIRECTIONAL ALUM. WHEELS.

\$29,480



Jump rope champs

A pair of King/Queen Jump Rope champions were honored recently from Josephine Gaglio's first grade class and Nancy Talento's second grade class at the Wick Elementary School in Romulus. The student royalty are from left: Malcom Jones, first grade; Martel Ellis, second grade; Ashley Wade, second grade and Khalil Hamilton, first grade. MCN Special Photo

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A golden anniversary

Some of the prominent members of Inkster High's Class of 1949 who attended a recent Golden Anniversary celebration of the class are pictured above. They include Judge Robert Evans (from left), Barbara (McKay) Gilreath, former principal at Mokersky Elementary School in the Westwood School District; Patricia (Baylor) Peterson, retired educator from the Detroit Public Schools, who also serves as director of Baylor Library Foundation at Baylor-Woodson School and the decorating coordinator for the Class Reunion Celebration. Also in the photo are Douglas D. Bethune, who was a teacher at the Inkster Public Schools during the 1940's and 1950s, and Edward Chastang.

Resident Council President says they support Simmons

By TOM MOORADIAN
MCN Staff Writer

The president of the Inkster Resident Council last week noted that the council has voted in support of the beleaguered executive director of Public Housing in the city of Inkster.

Bobbie Wallace, who serves as president, said that council members informed the commissioners and the city that its advisory group is in support of the long-time director of Public Housing, Floyd B. Simmons.

Simmons is under fire by some members of council who believe that the executive director is not doing enough to stop the alleged flow of illegal drugs from and to public hous-

ing.

In a terse letter to the media, Wallace stated that "We the Resident Council support Mr. Floyd B. Simmons in his endeavor, and we also look forward to working with Mayor (Hilliard) Hampton Jr., Judge Sylvia James, Police Chief

Terry Colwell, City Manager Robert Gordon and members of the City Council in the Year 2000 and beyond."

Wallace also noted that the community must work together in order to bring closure to all of the city's problems.

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Black & White Ball is a huge success

By MAUDE REID
MCN Special Writer

The Black & White Ball, sponsored by Gamma Phi Delta Sorority, Omega Chapter, was a tremendous success. The traditional program was staged at the Detroit Marriott Hotel in the city of Detroit.

Joyce Phillips, the sorority's basileus, was on hand to greet the sorority members and their guests.

The program was presented by the Northern Regional Conference directed by soror Andrea Wright, regional director, and Linda Brown, who was chairperson for the 1999 program.

Soror Lenna Hicks was among those who were honored for their many years of dedicated service to the sorority.

On another note, the recent

Town Meeting hosted by DAZ-Deltas, AKAs, and Zetas of Inkster, brought huge crowds to the Floyd B. Simmons Multi-culture Center to hear some of the most prominent people of our times.

Atop of the agenda was a heated discussion about Lansing's assault on Home Rule - the right of a municipality or a township and a school district to govern itself.

There were also other informative topics discussed.

Also on the agenda were Rev. David Hearn, director of the Thomas Gist Academy; Manuel Wilson, principal at Baylor-Woodson Elementary School; Louise Somalski, Legislative Coordinator for Michigan Federation of Teachers.

A question and answer period after the discussion also proved to be very interesting.

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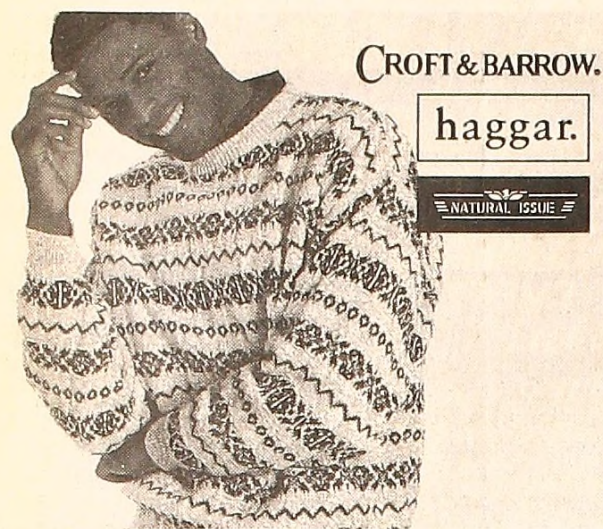
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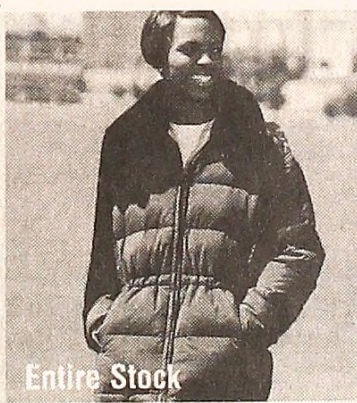
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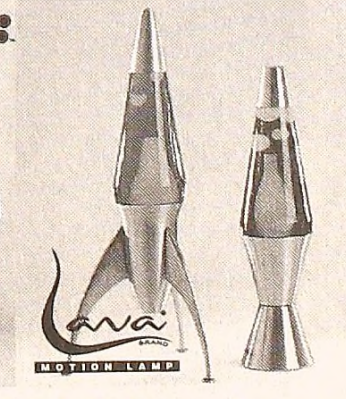
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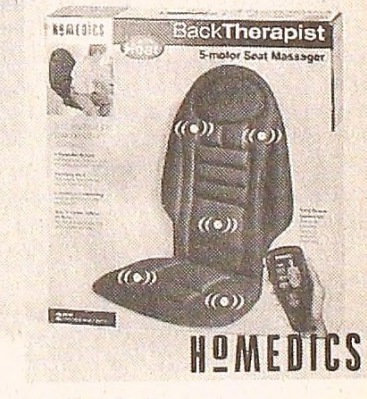
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Shown from left are Marc Pickering (Young Masbath), Johnny Depp (Ichabod Crane) and Christina Ricci (Katrina Van Tassel) in "Sleepy Hollow." The suspenseful sweeping tale is a Paramount Pictures and Manalaya Pictures presentation.

country. He tells his story to the investigative reporter who tries to get the piece aired even though his network re-

fuses. Rated R.
Mystery Alaska stars Russell Crowe, Mary McCormack, and Burt Reynolds. The residents

of a small town get over excited when their hockey team is chosen for a televised event. Rated R.

MINUTE MOVIE REVIEWS

NOW SHOWING:
Stuart Little stars Geena Davis, Dabney Coleman, Gene Wilder, and the voice of Michael J. Fox. Animation blends with live action in this tale of a mouse who moves in with the Little family where he learns the true meaning of family, loyalty and friendship. Rated PG.

Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo stars Rob Schneider, William Forsythe, and Eddie Griffin. A down on his luck fish tank cleaner takes a job fish sitting for a male escort, but when he mistakenly answers the business phone, he becomes Deuce Bigalow, Male Gigolo. Rated R.

Flawless stars Robert De Niro and Philip Seymour Hoffman. A comedic drama about a retired security guard who suffers a stroke and is assigned a rehabilitative program that includes singing lessons with a drag queen. Rated R.

Toy Story 2 stars the voices of Tom Hanks, Don Rickles, Tim Allen, and Jim Varney among others. The sequel to the 1995 comedy hit. Andy goes off to summer camp leaving the toys to their own devices. An obsessive toy collector kidnaps Woody who is a highly valued collectible. It's now up to Buzz Lightyear and the gang to save their pat from winding up as a museum piece. Rated G.

End of Days stars Arnold Schwarzenegger, Gabriel Byrne, and Kevin Pollack. This film is set at the dawn of the new millennium. This supernatural thriller chronicles Satan's visit to New York City in search of a bride with whom he expects to rule the next thousand years with. The only man who stands in his way is an ex-co turned security expert. Rated R.

The World is Not Enough stars Pierce Brosnan, Robert Carlyle, Sophie Marceau, Judi Dench and Denise Richards. The 19th installment of the James Bond Series. This time out Bond is assigned to protect the daughter of a murdered oil tycoon and defuse an international power struggle with the world's oil supply hanging in the balance. Rated PG-13.

Sleepy Hollow stars Johnny Depp, Christina Ricci, Miranda Richardson, and Michael Gambon. Tim Burton revises the classic Washington Irving story. This suspenseful & sweeping tale, set in the 1780's tells of an eccentric & earnest constable who investigates a string of murders, allegedly committed by a headless horseman. Rated R.

The Bachelor stars Rene Zellweger, Chris O'Donnell, James Cromwell, and Brooke Shields. A romantic comedy about a confirmed bachelor who has 24-hours to find a bride if he wishes to inherit \$100 million from his grandfather. Rated PG-13.

The Bone Collector stars Denzel Washington, Angelina Jolie, Queen Latifah, and Ed O'Neil. A gruesomely muti-

lated corpse is found next to the railroad tracks in Spanish Harlem. This forces an independent street-smart policewoman to team up with a brilliant but bed-bound forensic expert in order to solve the murder. Rated R.

The Insider stars Al Pacino,

Russell Crowe, Diane Verona, and Rip Torn. A factual drama based on Marie Brenner's "Vanity Fair" article "The Man Who Knew Too Much". A one-time corporate officer becomes a key witness in lung cancer cases against the tobacco companies across the

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STUART LITTLE

FROM THE CO-DIRECTOR OF 'THE LION KING'

PG

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Belleville, Van Buren News

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City council questions city counsel

By CAROL MARSHALL
MCN Staff Writer

The city attorney was under the microscope at Monday night's Belleville city council meeting.

Council member Kay Atkins told the council she's concerned that "some of the opinions from the city attorney are just that-opinions....I'm concerned about the quality of the legal advice we're getting."

She said she has "lost confidence" in city attorney Stephen Hitchcock, and cited several incidents in which his advice may have cost the city money.

She said the council received advice regarding the dismissal of former city manager Kerreen Connelly, to whom the city had to pay a substantial severance last year.

Atkins said she feels that Hitchcock often "gets into the political arena when he shouldn't."

She said most recently, the advice he gave the city regarding the citation issued to former mayor Dennis Fassett and the parking of his boat cost the city a couple thousand dollars in legal fees.

She also cited Hitchcock's advice regarding the publication of ordinances. He had told the city council that new ordinances must be printed in their entirety in the official newspaper, but they do not, and the city had to pay to publish substantial newspaper column inches before they were advised otherwise.

Atkins did, however, say that Hitchcock's firm is a "good, reputable firm, and Steve's a wonderful person, but I have a problem with the way he does business with he city."

Planning commission chairperson Bob Baker agreed, saying, "There are two things that the city has to replace—one is the city attorney, and the other is the city engineer."

Baker said he finds it "difficult to accept any of [Hitchcock's] opinions."

Further, Baker said in his 40 years of involvement in city issues and city politics, "There's only been one city attorney that came in and told the situation the way it was without worrying about what the council thought."

Baker said hourly rates should not be the end-all, be-all deciding factor when it comes to choosing a city attorney. City manager Steve Walters said Hitchcock's rates—\$90 an hour for attorney services, or \$40 an hour for legal assistant services—are about average.

Belleville homeowners saluted for style

By CAROL MARSHALL
MCN Staff Writer

The competition got a little fierce this year in the Christmas in Belleville 1999 Home Decorating Contest.

The awards were presented at Monday night's city council meeting, and one of the award winners admitted the pressure was definitely on to out-decorate her neighbors.

Barbara Harris, whose Harbour Pointe Drive home was a winner for the third year running, said next year she and husband Jeffrey will have to get new ladders in order to keep up with the ever more elaborate home decor efforts.

Others winners were Sherman and Regina Broge's Waterbury Court home, David Young's house on Bedell, and Gary Dargo and Lois Mattis's mobile home.

The contest was judged by city manager Steve Walters and his wife Beverly, city clerk Dianna and husband Wayne Kollmeyer, city council member Bill Creamean and his wife Annette, and Maxine and George Heifner of the Belleville Independent.

Heifner then took off with Independent staff writer/photographer Bob Mytych to shoot photos of the home, a task which took three evenings to accomplish, and the homeowners were presented with plaques from the Independent, which sponsored the contest.

Baker, however, said the city might consider paying higher rates if they find an attorney that would provide better services and advice. He cited the hiring of Walters, saying that the city council agreed to a slightly higher salary than they had anticipated, but added that Walters's expertise and

experience have proven well worth the extra money.

Council member Bill Emerson suggested extending the attorney's contract, which ends at the end of the month, another 90 days, and during that time the city can seek out other counsel. Atkins agreed.

The council voted unanimously (council member Bill Creamean was absent) to do so.

Walters said that he could provide the council with a possible list of attorneys and a sample request for proposals to the January 3, 2000, regular meeting.

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Holiday 'Dream'

■ Season's greetings from the News-Herald girls' basketball 'Dream Team'



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Photo by Greg Shamus

Carlson's Brandi Winrow helped the Marauders win a Mega Gold title. She made the N-H "Dream Team" which appears on Page 14-F.

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On the cover

The 1999 News-Herald girls' All-Downriver basketball team is a gift that any hoop coach would love to open this holiday. The News-Herald Dream team squad is (front, left), Grosse Ile's Tiffany Smolak and Roosevelt's Beth Fortuna; (back row, left) Roosevelt Coach Tom DeSana, Roosevelt's Kelly Lanagan, Brandi Winrow of Carlson, Light and Life star Maureen O'Malley, Dream Team MVP Jen Thurman of Riverview and veteran Grosse Ile Coach Steve Sims. Find more on the Dream Team and on all Downriver's basketball stars beginning on Page 14-F

Larry Caruso/Photo Editor



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Do-it-all Jag Kovarik makes the grade



Fisher



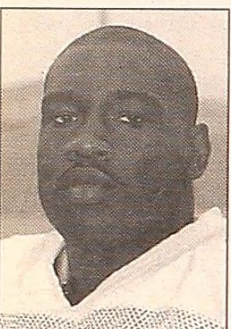
Chorkey



Foster



Graham



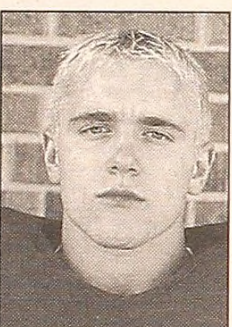
Thompson



Gorski



Thomas



Dodd



Watson



Ptak



Hoover

By Hank Minckiewicz

Heritage Sports Editor

That Allen Park's Dan Kovarik is a great football player is beyond question.

A question that does remain, however, is just what position is Kovarik greatest at?

The six-foot, four-inch, 180-pound senior captain was a big-play tight end for Coach Tom Hoover's team and he was also a great cover guy and a big hitter on defense.

Hoover won't be pinned down as to what position his star player was best at in 1999, he says only, "He was our big-play guy."

Kovarik followed in the footsteps of so many great Allen Park players before him.

The Allen Park system makes use of its best players by deploying them all over the place and allowing them to make the plays that determine the outcome of games.

Kovarik's play helped the Jags to a hard-fought Mega White title, a title that included wins over playoff-bound Roosevelt and Redford Thurston.

In the playoffs, Kovarik's Jags won twice before bowing to Monroe Jefferson. Allen Park finished the year with a 9-3 record.

Individually, Kovarik averaged 24 yards a catch. He had 27 receptions good for 646 yards.

Defensively he had three interceptions and a remarkable 108 tackles. Sixty-five of those tackles were solos. He also had a pair of fumble recoveries.

For his efforts, Kovarik is the MVP of this year's News-Herald football Dream Team.

Here is the rest of the honors team:

Mike Fisher, Trenton: "The engine of the Trenton team," according to Trenton Coach Bob Czarnecki, Fisher led his team to the state playoffs in 1999.

He passed for more than 1,500 yards and rushed for 376. Along the way he accounted for 18 Trenton touchdowns, running and throwing.

Remarkably, Fisher made a position change from last year when he was and All-Downriver second team player as a receiver.

Despite playing most of the year on a bad knee, the senior "was a treat to watch," according to Czarnecki.

He finished second all-time in season passing yardage.

Martel Foster, Rouge: Foster was another leading man, who carried his team from the quarterback position.

The River Rouge offense began and sometimes ended with the elusive Foster.

The fleet-footed signal-caller led the Panthers to a Mega Gold championship and into the state playoffs.

Among Rouge's most impressive wins was a league championship clinching victory over previously unbeaten Inkster.

Foster rushed for 937 yards, averaging 6.5 per carry. He also passed for 526 yards while throwing just 72 times.

In addition to his considerable offense, Foster also kicked in with 316 kick return yards.

As a defensive back he had 24 tackles and five interceptions.

Jason Straub, Carlson: Perhaps Downriver's best offensive weapon in 1999, Straub had 1,033 rushing yards.

He averaged 6.2 yards a carry and was named to the all Mega Blue and all Monroe County teams.

Straub also averaged 16 yards per reception for the Marauders, who finished second in the league to Romulus and who reached the state playoffs.

Defensively, Straub had 43 tackles and two interceptions. He caused two fumbles and recovered one.

Straub was a two-year, two-way starter for Coach Jim McDonald.

Brian Gorski, Cabrini: A defensive standout for the Monarchs, who suffered through a miserable season.

All Downriver Football

DREAM TEAM

Offensive backs: Martin Chorkey, Richard; Mike Fisher, Trenton; Martel Foster, Rouge; Jason Straub, Carlson.

Offensive linemen: Charles Mosby, Romulus; Eric Aguirre, Melvindale; Dan Graham, Anderson; Mike Olsen, Woodhaven.

Receivers: Drew Katona, Lincoln Park; Jason Ptak, Roosevelt.

Specialist: Casey Watson, Riverview.

Defensive linemen: Kyle Dodd, Riverview; Andy Thomas, Lincoln Park; Tony Robledo, Trenton.

Linebackers: Dave Fenbert, Grosse Ile; Nick Barzo, Carlson; Brian Gorski, Cabrini; Charles Thompson, Romulus; Lee Willmuth, Truman; Ken Kerr, Allen Park.

Defensive backs: Scott Pearce, Roosevelt; Dan Kovarik, Allen Park.

Coach: Tom Hoover, Allen Park.



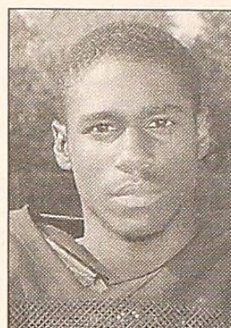
Allen Park's Dan Kovarik got the job done as both a tight end and defensive back.



Kovarik



Pearce



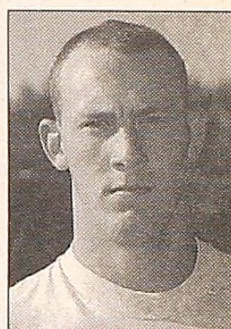
Willmuth



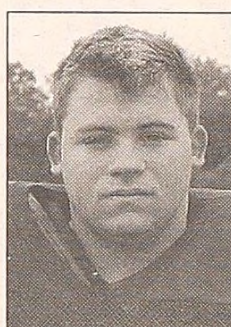
Kerr



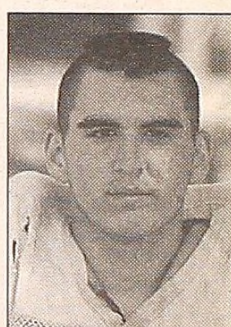
Barzo



Fenbert



Olsen



Robledo



Katona



Aguirre



Straub

DREAM

Continued from Page 3-F

Gorski, who was named to the Division VII all-state team as a linebacker, rang up some truly astounding numbers.

The junior had 138 tackles, racking up and amazing 23 in one game against Bishop Borgess.

He had nine tackles for losses and two sacks. He also caused five fumbles, recovered two and blocked two kicks.

"(He) was a hitting and tackling machine," said Cabrini Coach Bryan O'Brycki. "He plays with high emotion and fury."

Ken Kerr, Allen Park: A true all-around player, Kerr was dominant on both sides of the ball for Coach Tom Hoover's team.

You want rushing yards? Kerr had 762 and averaged 5.3 a carry.

You want receiving? Kerr had 16 catches and averaged 10.6 a reception.

You want scoring? Kerr had 14 touchdowns for the Mega White champs.

Defense? Kerr, an inside linebacker, had 130 tackles, including 50 solos.

A team captain, the 6-3, 200-pound Kerr also had two fumbles recoveries and was named to the All Mega White team.

Nick Barzo, Carlson: Carlson Coach Jim McDonald calls Barzo, "one of the best linebackers I have ever coached."

"He reads plays and just flies to the ball," McDonald said.

Barzo, just a junior, is already a two-year starter at Carlson. He was named to the all Mega Blue and all Monroe Country teams this year.

Barzo helped the Marauders reach the state playoffs by racking up 106 total tackles. He caused three fumbles and had one fumble recovery and one pass interception.

A fullback on offense, Barzo averaged more than four yards on limited carries and he was an 84 percent blocker.

Casey Watson, Riverview: A true football specialist if every there was one.

Watson's arm, he legs and his skills as a kick returner all combined to help keep Riverview in the race for a Huron League title and for a state playoff berth throughout the entire season.

A two-time team MVP, Watson scored 102 points in two seasons, rushed for 612 yards and passed for 1,654 on 100 completions.

Although he did not start on defense, Watson still managed seven interceptions in his two years.

He also returned four punts for touchdowns.

"He continually demonstrated the ability to break the long run," Riverview Coach Don Lessner said.

Tony Robledo, Trenton: Robledo was a team captain in 1999 and he lived up to that honor by winning all Mega Blue and team defensive MVP honors.

The senior had 57 tackles this season. He also had five tackles for loss and four sacks. Robledo hurried the opposing quarterback 14 times, recovered three fumbles and blocked a kick.

"Tony manned our strong end position as well as anyone has," Trenton Coach Bob Czarnecki said. "He was very physical; we found most people ran away from him."

Kyle Dodd, Riverview: The senior middle guard had 52 total tackles in 1999. He also tacked on nine tackles for loss and one quarterback sack.

He was one of the few Riverview players to go both ways this season, playing middle guard and center.

Coach Don Lessner said Dodd's great quickness and improved strength made him a great player and an All Huron League Team member.

Charles Mosby, Romulus: One of a whole fleet of big strong offensive linemen that carried the Eagles to a Mega Blue championship and to a playoff victory in 1999.

Mosby was a massive force on the offensive line for Coach Mark Woodson's team and he helped lead the team to a 10-2 season.

When pressed into duty as a defensive lineman, as he was in a playoff battle with Monroe Jefferson, Mosby responded well. He had 16 tackles as a defensive tackle.

Charles Thompson, Romulus: One of the real great players in the Downriver area, Thompson was a man among boys sometimes in the Mega Blue.

A fabulous talent on both sides of the football, Thompson was dominant as a linebacker and as a tailback-fullback.

He rushed for 923 yards and 15 touchdowns.

Defensively, he had 51 tackles and four quarterback sacks.

The rock-solid 200-pounder was named to the Mega White all league team.

Dave Fenbert, Grosse Ile: Far and away Grosse Ile's best player this season, Fenbert made the all Huron League team, the all Huron academic team and was the Red Devils' team MVP.

The senior fullback-linebacker, who carries a 3.85 GPA, averaged four yards a

carry on offense and had a school-record 134 tackles on defense.

He had a pass interception, three fumble recoveries, six sacks and 16 tackles for loss.

"Dave is an outstanding player and leader," said Coach Kevin Wilson. "He is a very hard worker; a total-package kind of a player."

Eric Aguirre, Melvindale: This is a player they will never remove from the Melvindale recordbook. Some may tie his record of 38 straight varsity starts, but it is unlikely that anyone will break it.

A starter since his freshman year, Aguirre was a 92 percent blocker. He gave up just one sack this season and just five in his career.

He is a two time all-Mega Blue selection.

"Eric is an outstanding offensive guard," Coach Mike Dawson said. "We ran behind him 90 percent of the time."

"He is a consistent pass protector and an extremely physical player."

As a defensive tackle, Aguirre had 62 tackles and recovered two fumbles.

Justin Ptak, Roosevelt: It is hard sometimes to estimate the value of a blocking tight end, but the Roosevelt staff showed how much it appreciated Ptak by voting him the coaches' award after this past season.

Ptak caught just 12 passes for 129 yards in 1999, but two of them went for scores.

It was his blocking, however, that drew raves from the Roosevelt coaches.

"He is just a great kid," said Coach Rob Baker. "He always hustled; no one could

See STARS — Page 5-F

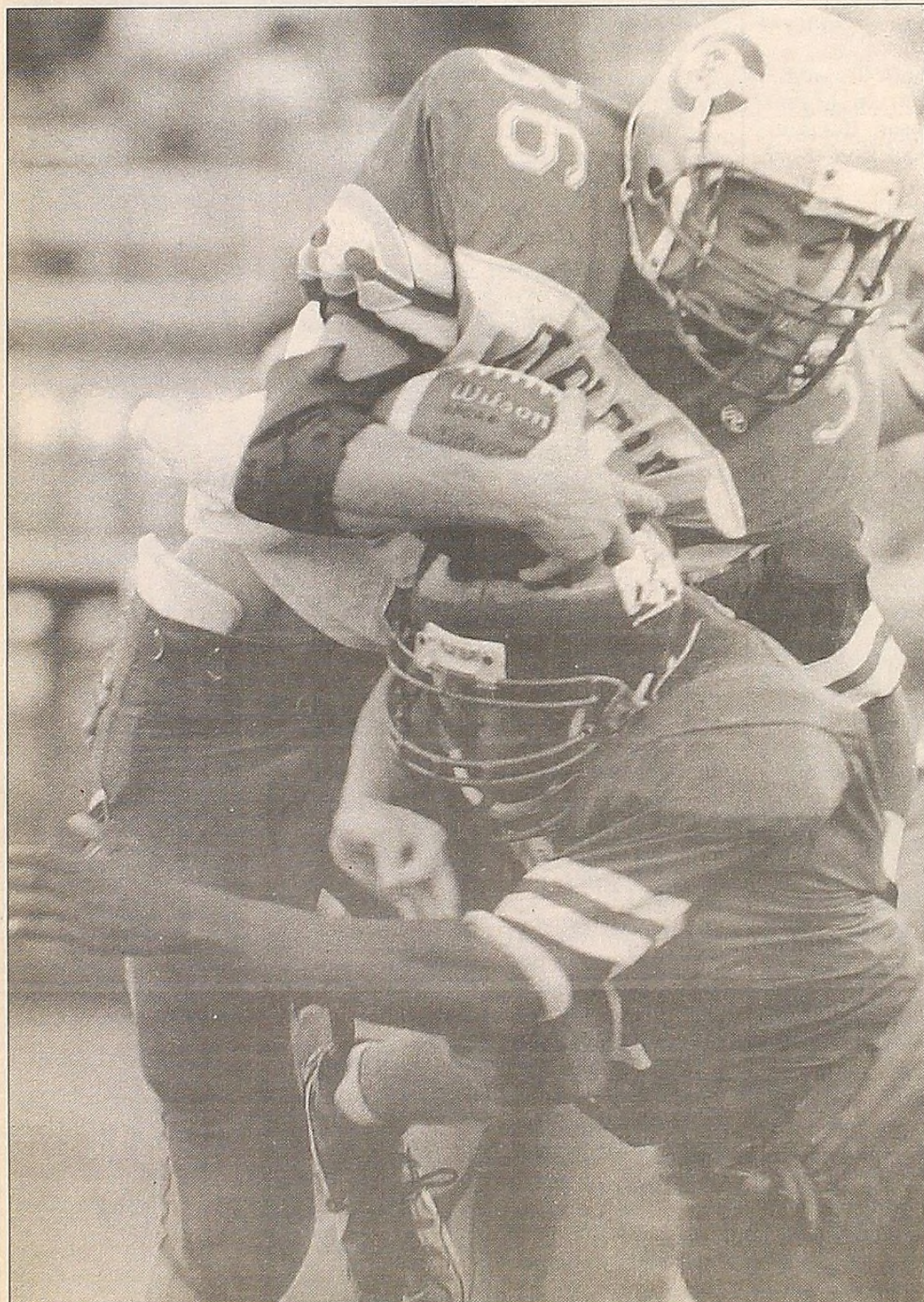


Photo by Greg Shamus

Jason Straub was a rushing machine for Carlson this season. He rushed for more than 1,000 yards and led the Marauders to the state playoffs.

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STARS

Continued from Page 4-F

outwork him."

Defensively Ptak was a linebacker and he had 42 solo tackles and 45 assists. He caused five fumbles and had three pass interceptions.

Mike Olsen, Woodhaven: Olsen was the center on an improved Woodhaven team.

The senior made all the offensive line calls for Coach Tony Brinson's team and he graded out as an 82 percent blocker.

Olsen was a team tri-captain and he missed just one series of plays in nine games.

"Mike is an honor student, who led by example on the practice field and on the game field," Brinson said.

Dan Graham, Anderson: Possibly the most improved football player in the Downriver area, Graham rose from obscurity to become the Titans team MVP this season.

The two-way junior lineman was a 93 percent blocker this season on offense for the improved Titans. He had 35 tackles and two sacks from his defensive tackle position.

"He is a very physical and agile player," said Anderson Coach John Rama. "None of the teams we played were able to successfully run the ball in his direction."

Scott Pearce, Roosevelt: The best player on a very good team, Pearce, who played wide receiver, defensive back and returned kicks, was voted team MVP by his teammates.

"He did everything for us," said Coach Rod Baker. "He had great speed, he was our vocal leader and he was our team captain."

"He never left the field."

Pearce caught 34 passes for 539 yards and two touchdowns. He had 477 return yards and scored twice on kick returns.

Defensively, he had 48 total tackles, three interceptions and a fumble recovery. In addition to scoring on pass plays and kick returns, Pearce also took an interception and a fumble back for scores.

Drew Katona, Lincoln Park: Another of those "do-everything" kind of players.

The 6-foot-3 Katona played just seven games because of injury, but he caught 37

passes in those games for 437 yards as Lincoln Park became the surprise team in the Mega Red, going 3-3 in division games.

In addition to his receiving skills, Katona rushed the ball nine times for 156 yards, had two pass interceptions and four blocked kicks.

He scored four touchdowns receiving, two rushing and one of an interception return. In addition, he had three scores called back because of penalties.

Martin Chorkey, Richard: Chorkey was the main offensive threat on a Gabriel Richard team that qualified for the state playoffs for the first time.

The senior tailback finished the season just short of the 1,000-yard rushing mark, amassing 920 yards.

Even more impressive than his rushing numbers was his scoring. Chorkey found the end zone 16 times for Coach Pat Sieszputowski's team in 1999.

Chorkey was a two-way player (tailback and cornerback), a two-year starter and an all-Catholic selection.

Lee Willmuth, Truman: Willmuth had the distinction of being Truman's leading tackler for three straight seasons.

"Lee has great instincts for the game," said Coach Jim Clawson. "He runs from sideline to sideline and is a joy to coach."

"He is a very hard worker and an outstanding leader."

Willmuth had three pass interceptions and two fumble recoveries.

In addition to his great defensive work, the 6-1, 190 pound Willmuth led the Cougars in scoring with 11 TDs from his fullback position.

He rushed 95 times for a 5.8-yard average and caught seven balls for an average of 11.3 yards.

Andy Thomas, Lincoln Park: An exceptional two-way player for Coach Dan Grignon's Railsplitters.

The 6-2, 290-pound Thomas was a 94 percent blocker on offense with 12 pancake blocks.

"He's a good downfield blocker for a guy his size," Grignon said. "He became a more vocal leader as the season went on. He got us two or three touchdowns by saying, 'run it over me.'"

Defensively, Thomas was dominant, too. He had six quarterback sacks and 12 tackles for loss.

He was an all Mega Red performer

CLASS A FOOTBALL

Class A grid unit is talented bunch

By Hank Minckiewicz

Heritage Sports Editor

Corey Strader, Kennedy: Kennedy's leading rusher with 724 yards, Strader scored four times of the Eagles.

Defensively, he led the team in tackles with 85 and had two sacks and a fumble recovery. He was named to the all Mega Blue team.

Phil Short, Lincoln Park: Short was a vocal leader, who led by example, according to Coach Jamie Grignon.

Short was a 50 percent passer, who threw for 573 yards and ran for 457. He rushed for six touchdowns and threw for six.

Pat Cosgrove, Woodhaven: The senior defensive tackle relied on quickness to get the job done this season.

"Sometimes it seemed like he was in the backfield before the quarterback even received the ball," Coach Tony Brinson said.

Cosgrove had 10 quarterback sacks. He also had 45 tackles, caused two fumbles, recovered one and blocked a kick.

John Atkinson, Kennedy: Another tough two-way player for Coach Tom Mall. The offensive guard was "an outstanding blocker and a force in the middle," according to Mall.

Defensively, he had 72 tackles, a pass interception and a fumble recovery.

Jeremy Wright, Lincoln Park: For a 150-pounder, Wright wrung the most out of his ability.

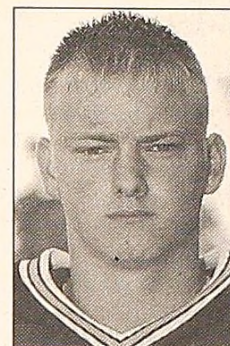
The linebacker-running back had three 100-plus yard rushing games and finished the year with 670. He scored five times and made 48 tackles in seven games on



Miller



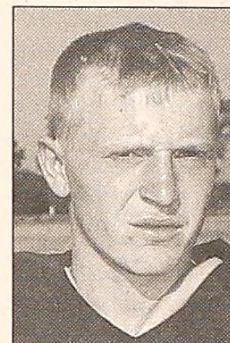
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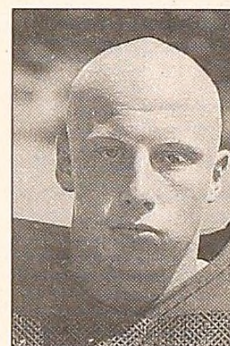
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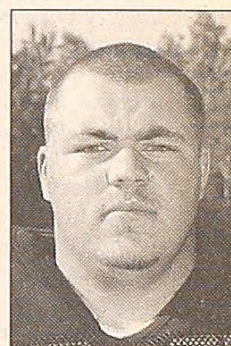
Wright



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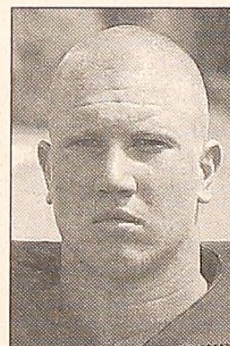
Atkinson



Blanchard



Short



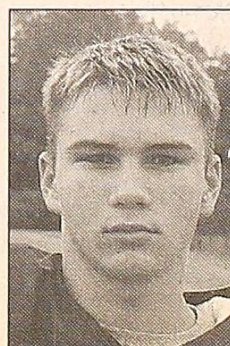
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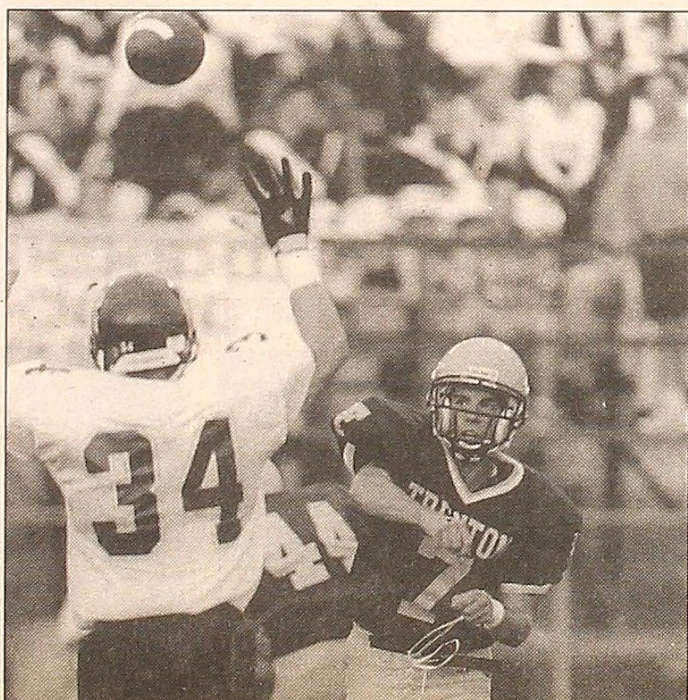


Photo by Greg Shamus

Mike Fisher (7) was "the engine that made the Trenton machine run" this season according to Coach Bob Czarnecki.

CLASS B FOOTBALL

Jaguars highlight Class B squad

By Hank Minckiewicz
Heritage Sports Editor

Dan Templin, Allen Park: A senior tailback, Templin rushed for 968 yards and nine touchdowns.

"He brought some speed to our backfield," Coach Tom Hoover said.

Templin, a 5-11, 160-pounder, also caught 14 passes for 128 yards.

Richard Lewis, Melvindale: Just a sophomore, Lewis was nonetheless an impressive player for Coach Mike Dawson this season.

He has already stated 18 straight games at offensive guard and linebacker.

He had 119 tackles, two interceptions and two fumble recoveries.

He is the only sophomore in Melvindale history naked team captain.

Kris Zajac, Grosse Ile: Another standout sophomore, Zajac, a free safety, made 100 tackles for Coach Kevin Wilson's team.

"He is a tough, physical player with a great nose for the ball," Wilson said.

Zajac had two sacks and nine tackles for loss.

John Ruehle, Allen Park: A 6-2, 215-pound senior center, Ruehle anchored the Allen Park offensive line.

"You didn't hear much from him, but he was a leader on the team," Hoover said.

Ruehle was a two-year starter, a team captain and the team's long snapper.

Ray Graves, Romulus: A junior outside linebacker, Graves made a real name for himself with his big-play abilities.

Graves had 37 tackles in 1999, but the number that really stands out is the number of sacks: 12.

Graves helped Romulus to the Mega Blue title this season.

Craig Shepherd, Allen Park: A dominant two-way lineman, Shepherd helped open holes for the Jaguar backs and shut down the opponent's running game.

The 6-3, 250-pound Shepherd had 85 tackles as a defensive tackle and graded highly as an offensive lineman.

"We ran the ball over him a lot," Hoover said.

Ricky Foster, Romulus: A tough senior, who played both offense and defense, Foster was a Romulus team leader.

He had 63 tackles from his inside linebacker position and he had three quarterback sacks. He also had two fumble recoveries and blocked a kick.

Offensively, he scored four touchdowns and kicked 26 extra points.

Vaughn Peterson, Rouge: Another big-play guy, who played all over the field. At various times, Peterson lined up as a linebacker, a safety or a wide receiver.

He had 117 tackles and 10 sacks. He picked off two passes and recovered a fumble in helping the Panthers win the Mega Gold and qualify for the state playoffs.

See CLASS B — Page 18-F



Templin



Huck



Laura



Ruehle



Lewis



Shepherd



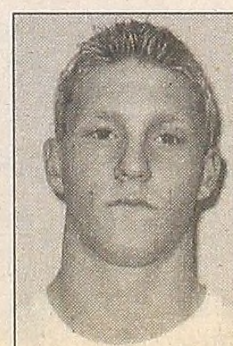
Steele



Zajac



Foster



Rizzuto

CLASS C-D FOOTBALL

Four Pioneers land on C-D team

By Hank Minckiewicz
Heritage Sports Editor

Richard Williams, Ecorse: Williams was a two-year rushing machine for Coach Vince Parks' Red Raiders. He ran for nearly 1,600 yards this season.

"He has the strength and power to run over opponents and the speed to run around them."

Jon Wallace, Richard: How good and how important a player was Jon Wallace? He missed three games this season and still led the Pioneers in tackles from his middle linebacker position.

A fullback on offense, Wallace added 658 yards and seven touchdowns.

Jason Alexander, Ecorse: a 6-3, 215-pound junior, Alexander was the lineman that the Red Raiders ran behind.

"He is a great run blocker with really quick feet," said Parks.

Alexander tied with Richard Williams for most tackles on the team.

Alan Palmiter, Mt. Carmel: Mount Carmel, a cooperative team between Mount Carmel and Aquinas, got a lot of mileage out of this senior.

Palmiter passed for 1,011 yards and 12 touchdowns as the Comets returned to respectability.

Craig Carroll, Richard: Gabriel Richard went to the state playoffs for the first time this season and line play was a big reason for the team's success.

Carroll was the team's best blocker on the "D" line as well. He was one of Coach Pat Sieszputowski's senior leaders.

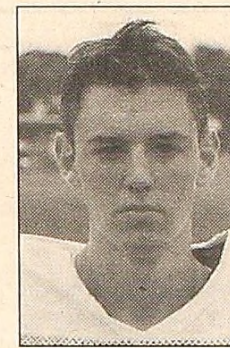
Bryan Grabowski, Mt. Carmel: Grabowski was the Comets' team captain and the squad's leading tackler with 91.

A linebacker on defense, Grabowski turned around and became an effective running back when the Comets went on offense.

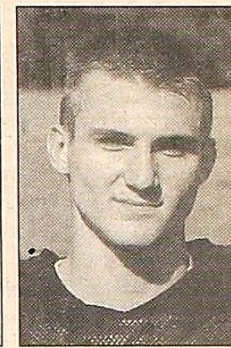
He had 295 rushing yards and 299 receiving yards and he scored six touchdowns. He also returned 10 kicks for 200 yards.

Brandon Buzanowski, Richard: "Buzzer" called the signals for a Gabriel Richard team that hung tough all season, overcame injuries and reached the state playoffs.

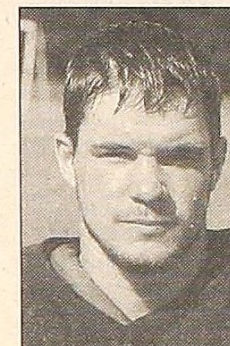
See C-D — Page 18-F



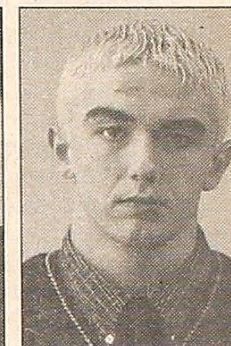
Suda



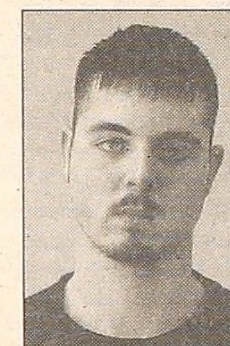
Wallace



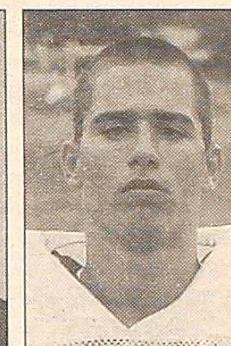
Grabowski



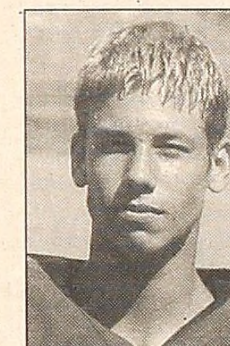
Sekmistrz



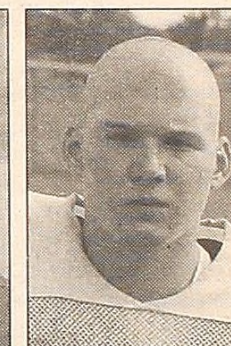
Lezotte



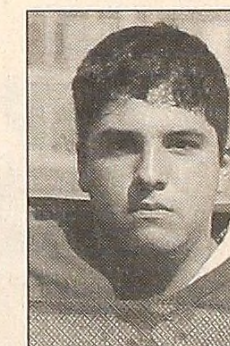
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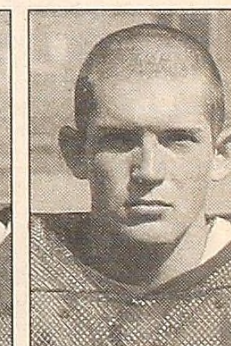
Compian



Carroll



Grimaldo



Polley



Price



Gruse



Buzanowski



Palmiter

Inter-City's Kypros leads soccer squad

By John Miskelly
Sports Writer

While the most recent girls' Downriver high school soccer season was punctuated by high-flying goal-scorers, the boys' season, was not.

In fact, defense once again seemed to be the name of the game.

Schools such as Inter-City Baptist, Carlson and Richard won games, but didn't exactly have the scorekeeper reaching for more paper in doing so.

Defense is what did it for these schools. Defense was the oil that kept the machines humming.

This was especially true at Inter-City.

Just as Carlson goalkeeper Joel Urbanowicz led the way for his squad in 1998, earning News-Herald Most Valuable Player, the Chargers' Jim Kypros did the same in Allen Park.

The Chargers senior goalkeeper set a school record allowing just 14 goals this season for a 0.60 goals against average.

His 12 shutouts in 1999 were one short of the school record as well.

His accomplishments, including leading the Chargers to a 17-win season, are enough to earn him MVP honors.

Kypros was the team's leader on the pitch throughout the season. He showed a keen ability to be the on-field coach, always instructing his teammates how to do something and when to do it, but never berating them.

Meet Kypros' teammates on the 1999 All-Downriver boys' soccer squad:

Sean Andrzejewski, Carlson: Always seemed to have his name on a scoresheet, Andrzejewski was a big part of why the Marauders typically outshot most opponents.

According to Coach Mark Nyholm, his shot from a distance of about 30 yards was one of the best in the area.

Ben Collins, Inter-City: The Chargers' captain and a four-year starter.

Collins scored 14 goals and added 13 assists this season and was a big reason the Chargers posted a 17-win season.

Rob Fabbri, Richard: On a defensive-minded team Fabbri, a senior, tallied seven goals and three assists.

According to Coach Jeremy Borys, he was considered a huge offensive threat by the opposition. First team all-Catholic as well.

Jason Halcisak, Grosse Ile: A junior who excelled as a forward as well as a defender, according to Coach Amy Rossow.

Halcisak tallied 10 goals during the Red Devils' district-winning season and was named all-league and all-district.

Ryan Horvath, Grosse Ile: One of 13



Kraatz

Second team

Pat McCabe, David Sciccluna, Adam Sparks, Carlson; Jake Milner, Nate Mong, Inter-City; Jim Moran, Evan Tarrant, David Weglicki, Richard; Buddy Morsello, Trenton; Randy Oulette, Ryan Sibrel, Grosse Ile; Jared Setser, Baptist Park; Mitch Sikon, Tim Stamatis, Anderson.

Honorable Mention

Allen Park: Rob Clarke, Mike Radar, Jim Templin, Anderson; Mike Genevich, Nick McCutcheon; Aquinas: Jake Wagonsomer; Baptist Park: Chuck Jubenville, Matt Reed, Dave Watkins; Carlson: Dustin Armstrong, Ryan Marl; Grosse Ile: David Larkin; Inter-City: Patrick Camarena, Trevor Daniel, Mark Howell; Kennedy: David Kelly, Mike Schulte, Tommaso Vitale; Lincoln Park: Josh Conrad, Rick Hawk, Tony Pizzo, Jeff Raithel, Jason Tucker; Richard: Matt Bartlett; Trenton: Pat Danz; Truman: Greg Nordstrom; Woodhaven: Brandon D'Emidio, Trevor Horn, Derek Horvath;

juniors on the Red Devils' roster Horvath posted 14 goals to go with 23 assists.

He netted the double overtime game-winner in a district final and was named to the all-district and all-regional teams.

Jeff Kaul, Richard: Kaul, a senior, was a key reason the Pioneers' goalkeeper posted a 1.38 goals against this season.

Also named first-team all-Catholic in 1999.

Dan McNamara, Inter-City: Described as the team's best ball handler by Coach Mark Kraatz, McNamara tallied 11 goals and seven assists.

McNamara, a senior, was a three-year starter under Kraatz.

Frank Muedini, Trenton: Was a senior captain for the Trojans. Muedini also was named team MVP.

Posted 12 goals and six assists and captured all-league, all-district and all-regional honors.

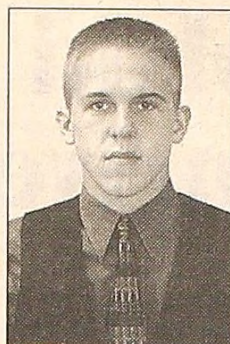
Jason Murdock, Woodhaven: The Warriors' senior captain is a returning all-area first-teamer from 1998. Playing through a bum ankle all season Murdock posted five goals and nine assists in 1999 and was named team MVP.

For his career at Woodhaven Murdock recorded 21 goals and 28 assists.

Ken Semak, Carlson: Just as he was as a junior Semak was the Marauders' last line of defense and a big part of why Carlson did not permit many goals against this season.

The senior was a member of the first team in the Mega White and was named one of the top players in the region as well.

Nathaniel White, Inter-City: The Chargers' junior was called the toughest little kid per pound Downriver. A key reason for Inter-City's sparkling defensive play this season and contributed to



Andrzejewski



Collins



Fabbri



Halcisak



Horvath



Kaul



Kypros



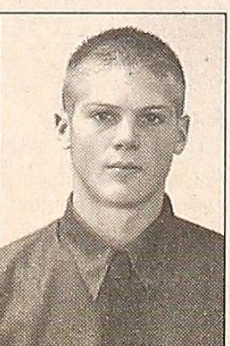
McNamara



Muedini



Murdock



Semak



White

CLASS A

Continued from Page 5-F

defense.

Nick Bower, Roosevelt: An all league performer as an offensive lineman, Bower was one of the reasons Roosevelt was able to run and pass effectively.

Bower also played defensive end, where he had 43 tackles and seven sacks. He caused three fumbles.

Jon Pero, Woodhaven: A great weapon for the Warriors, Pero led the team in rushing and in tackles.

As a tailback, Pero ran for 620 yards and scored 10 touchdowns.

As a linebacker, the junior had 75 tackles (25 solos). He also intercepted a pass and recovered three fumbles.

He punted for a 32.3-yard average and kicked three field goals.

John Markovitz, Kennedy: This senior was a two-way player for the Eagles, lining up at guard on offense and end on defense.

"he was one of our best blockers," said Kennedy Coach Tom Mall.

Defensively, Markovitz collected 45 tackles.

Shawn Willmuth, Truman: This 6-3, 180-pound junior played both quarterback and defensive back for the Cougars.

He was the third leading tackler for Truman with 63. He had three interceptions and a fumble recovery.

Coach Jim Clawson called him "an intelligent player," and said he was one of the best option quarterbacks around.

Jeff Powell, Roosevelt: One of the most talked-about young players in the area, Powell is at the top of the list among recruited quarterbacks in the state.

The all Mega Red selection passed for 1,204 yards and rushed for 275. He passed for 11 touchdowns and ran for three.

He also punted for a 32-yard average.

Steve Brant, Truman: Brant was second on the Truman team with 90 tackles from his linebacker position. He recovered two fumbles and had an interception.

He played guard on offense.

"He gave us toughness and outstanding senior leadership," Clawson said.

Tony Flatt, Anderson: A two-way player who got better and better as the season progressed, according to Coach John Rama.

Flat was a tight end and an outside linebacker for the Titans. He was an 89 percent blocker and averaged 15 yards a catch.

Defensively, Flatt made 31 tackles and had three sacks.

Nick Miller, Roosevelt: A junior, Miller led Roosevelt in scoring with 95 points.

"He is a great blocker and a hard runner," Coach Rod Baker said.

He had 710 rushing yards and 221 receiving yards. He also had 35 tackles as a linebacker and made 23 extra points.

Bobby Garza, Anderson: A senior, Garza played quarterback and cornerback.

"He's a very good athlete," said Coach John Rama. "He was often throwing on the run and he was always a threat to run with the ball."

Garza passed for 863 yards and 11 touchdowns in his senior season.

Kris Blanchard, Truman: Coach Jim Clawson called the burly Blanchard "out best offensive lineman."



Adams



Ament



Bates



Bildner



Bouchard



Bringard



Buchner



Clauss



Cross



Daugherty



Davis



Everingham

Podolski MVP of Downriver tennis

By Chuck Nelson

Sports Writer

As far as tennis seasons go, they don't get much better than the one Riverview's Christy Podolski had this fall.

Podolski earned her News-Herald All-Downriver MVP status by dominating the competition locally, winning the News-Herald Invitational and the Huron League title, and taking second at regionals.

The Pirate sophomore notched wins over fellow Dream Teamers Stacey Geftos (Grosse Ile), Lindsey Riley (Woodhaven) and Mary Ament (Trenton) during the season.

Podolski also won the Royal Oak Shrine tournament, lost in the finals at the Monroe Invitational, and won a match at the Division IV state tourney.

Now, meet the rest of the 1999 Girls Tennis Dream Team:

Stacey Geftos, Grosse Ile: Geftos capped her season as the top gun on one of the area's top teams by placing runner up at regionals, falling to Trenton's Mary Ament in the final.

Geftos has been on the All-Area team every season she's played.

Lindsey Riley, Woodhaven: Riley, a senior, had a great season for the Warriors.

After finishing second to Podolski at the News-Herald, she went 17-9 at one singles for Coach Tim Coleman, and was named to the All-Mega White team after winning the one singles flight at the league meet.

Mary Ament, Trenton: A junior, Ament went 15-9 at one singles for the Trojanettes, including a regional tourney win.

Ament also finished second at the Mega Red league meet, and made the Red All-League squad.

Nicole Ratcliffe, Roosevelt: The No. 1 singles player at Wyandotte did a good job despite playing a tough Mega Red schedule, and had several close matches against Riley and Podolski this season.

Becky Thomson, Allen Park: Thomson moved into the one singles flight for the Jaguars this season, and compiled a 14-9 overall record.

Thomson also finished runner-up at the Mega Blue league meet.

Beth Ann Rourk, Woodhaven: Rourk, another Warrior senior, was as dominant a No. 2 singles player as we've seen for a while.

Rourk won five tournaments, including the News-Herald, regionals and league meet, and was undefeated in Mega White play at 12-0.

Rourk went 24-3 overall, and was named to the All-Mega White team.

And, the rest of the News-Herald All-Area tennis team:

Gillian Bringard, Grosse Ile: Bringard won her flight at two singles in the Huron League meet, and was runner up at the Troy Athens Invitational and at regionals.

Emily Everingham, Grosse Ile: A freshman, Everingham won the Huron League title at three singles, and was runner-up at

regionals before making the quarters at the state meet.

Megan Bildner, Grosse Ile: The Devils No. 4 singles player was runner up in the Huron League, and got wins over Riverview, Allen Park and Cabrini during the year.

Jaclyn Richardson, Andrea Nelson, Grosse Ile: The islanders No. 1 senior doubles team had some big matches with Trenton, and got wins over Riverview during the season.

Kelly Clauss, Grace Song, Grosse Ile: Grosse Ile's two doubles team won the regional draw and made the state quarterfinals, and got wins over Trenton, Riverview, Woodhaven and Cabrini during the season.

Erica Repasky, Amy Patrosh, Grosse Ile: Finished runners-up in the Huron League tourney, and got wins over Cabrini and Riverview during the season.

Jenna Buchner, Sheila Mech, Grosse Ile: Won Coach John Shade's No. 4 doubles tourney at the regionals, and got a win over Trenton during the regular season.

Megan Gallaway, Trenton: The Trojanettes' junior No. 2 singles player won the News-Herald and regionals, then followed it all up with a quarterfinal showing at the state tournament.

Jenny Peters, Trenton: Still only a sophomore, Peters won at The News-Herald and at regionals before making the state quarterfinals. Also won three other tournaments.

Michelle Woolcott, Trenton: A junior, Woolcott won at The News-Herald and at regionals, and won two other tourney titles before a quarterfinal showing at states.

Lisa Cross, Emily Washchuk, Trenton: The Trojanettes' dominating No. 1 doubles team won the News-Herald title, the Monroe Invitational, the Mega Red league meet, and made the quarterfinals at the state tournament.

Allison VanValkenburg, Amanda Pressotto, Trenton: The Trojanettes' freshmen duo won at The News-Herald invite, regionals and the Red league meet, and won a round at the state tourney.

Molly Skupin, Melissa Skupin, Riverview: The sister combo led the Pirate strength in the doubles lineup. They won the Huron League title at one doubles, and made the regional finals. Named to All-Huron League team.

Wendy Witkowski, Kelly Forsyth, Riverview: The Bucs' No. 2 doubles tandem won at The News-Herald invite and the Huron League meet, and made the finals at regionals. Named to All-Huron team.

Erin Daugherty, Dominique Trudeau, Riverview: The Pirates' No. 3 doubles team won their regional draw, and also made the finals at the Huron League meet and the semifinals at the News-Herald.

Kristin Schweizer, Nicole Bouchard, Cabrini: The Monarch seniors compiled an 18-7 record overall, and won at the Catholic League tournament and at regionals.



Forsyth



Gallaway



Goddard



Herr



Johnson



Kunihiro



Matzo



Mercatante



Nelson



Patrosh



Peters



Podolski

See NET — Page 9-F

ALL-DOWNRIVER TENNIS



Pressotto



Ratcliffe



Richardson



Riley



Rourk



Schweizer



Melissa Skupin



Molly Skupin



Smith



Soblo



Stewart

NET

Continued from Page 5-F

Brie Adams, Cabrini: Adams held down the Monarchs' three singles spot, and did well at The News-Herald invite and at the Catholic League tourney.

Jill Vrabel, Cabrini: The Monarchs' No. 1 singles player did well this season despite playing Cabrini's tough Catholic League schedule.

Lyndsey Davis, Christin McLennan; Allen Park: Davis moved down from one singles to form this powerful duo, which went 16-4 overall and won the Mega Blue title at one doubles.

Molly Matzo, Gabriel Richard: Four-year player and three-season team captain, Matzo was named to the All-Catholic A-East team. Win over Madison Heights Bishop Foley secured GR's A-East title.

Erin Trussell, Richard: Trussell, a junior, won the Catholic League title at two singles, and won the regional as well. Also named to the All-Catholic A-East team.

Courtney Smith, Richard: The Pioneer sophomore won the three singles flight at the Catholic League tourney, and finished runner-up at The News-Herald Invite. She was also an All-Catholic A-East honoree.

Bernie Goddard, Anderson: The Titans senior was named to the All-Mega White team and Anderson MVP, and took third at the White league meet.

Kim Kunihiro, Roosevelt: Kunihiro was

a tough one to beat at No. 2 singles for the Bears, and played well in the tough Mega Red.

Angela Martinez, Kennedy: The Kennedy senior won her flight at The News-Herald B tourney and was named its MVP, and was named to the All-Mega White team.

Crystal Soblo, Kennedy: A sophomore, Soblo won the two singles flight at The News-Herald B tourney, and was named to the All-Mega White team. Was team captain.

Becky Bates, Kennedy: Bates, a sophomore, won the three singles flight at the News-Herald B tourney, and also took second at the Monroe regional. Was the Eagles' captain.

Jessica Stewart, Woodhaven: The Warriors' No. 3 player, Stewart finished second at the White league meet, and won a pair of Woodhaven tournaments.

Shaun Gillies, Woodhaven: Gillies will be back next season after finishing second at the White league meet, and also winning both the Warrior Quad and Woodhaven Classic tournaments.

Andrea Mercatante, Amanda Johnson; Woodhaven: Woodhaven's No. 1 doubles team went 20-3 overall on the season, and was undefeated in Mega White play. This team was the runner-up at The News-Herald invite.

Tabitha Herr, Truman: Herr, a senior, was named to the All-Mega Blue team, and was a tough player at one singles for the Cougars.



Thomson



Trudeau



Trussell



VanValkenburg



Vrabel



Washchuk



Witkowski



Woolcott



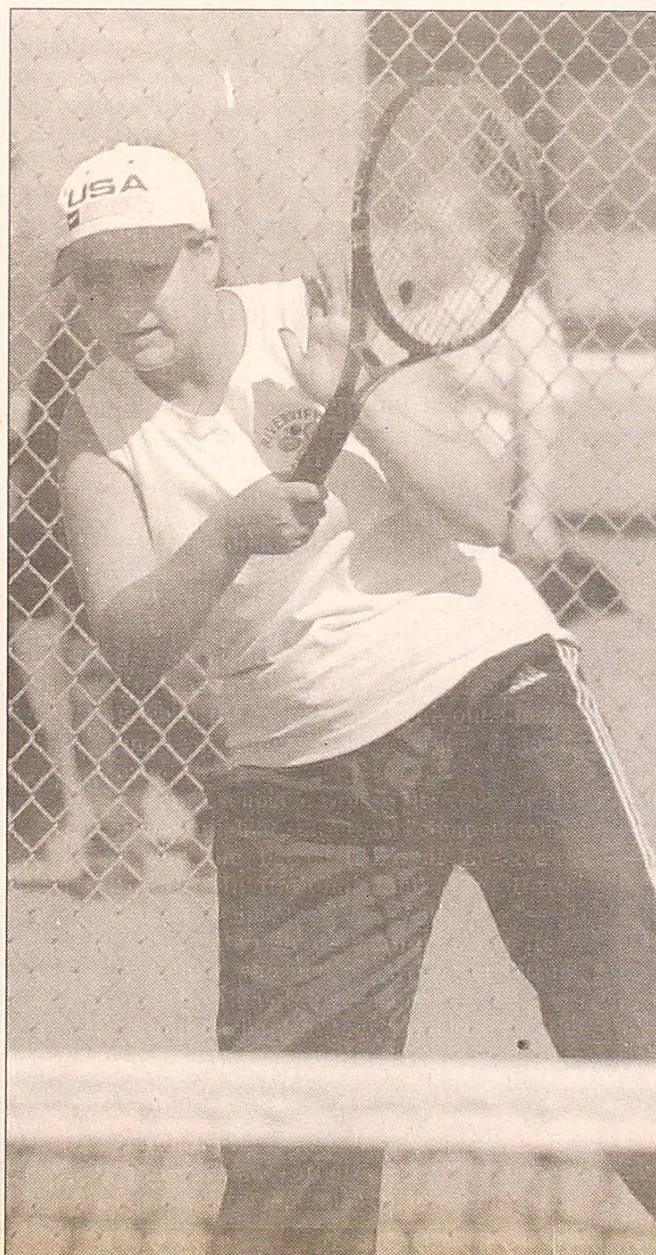
Geftos



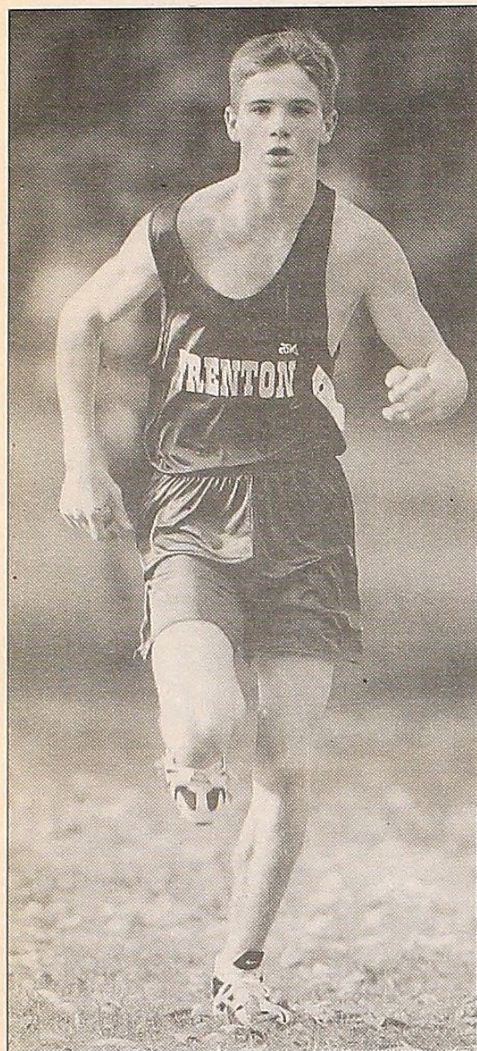
Martinez



Song



Riverview's Christy Podolski won the News-Herald Invitational and was named the All-Downriver MVP.



Trenton's Pat Roberts was the 1999 N-H champ and he was the area's top male cross country runner.

Roberts' Trojans the total package

By Rick Schulte
Senior Sports Writer

Talk about the total package.

Not only did Trenton's boys win the Michigan Mega Conference Red Division cross country championship.

Not only did they win the News-Herald meet.

Not only did they qualify for the state meet, and finish a very good fourth overall.

Trenton also had the top runner around.

Pat Roberts, who easily won the News-Herald championship and placed sixth overall in the Class B state meet, was the area's undisputed No. 1 runner this season.

Although Roberts was your basic Pied Piper of cross country this year, he was just part of a pretty good story that was the Trenton Trojans.

Don Wilkins improved immensely and emerged as the other half of one of the better one-two punches seen recently.

The Trojans were also tough because of improvements coming from stellar runners like Scott Kallgren, Joe Viger and Brian Alexander. To show how good Trenton was this season, the Trojans' "Fab Five" ranged from first to 14th in the all-area meet.

But while the Trojans were a strong team, there were also some amazing individual efforts provided this year.

Woodhaven's Jake Hammerle, a sophomore, snapped off a long winning streak to open the year and, with any luck, will remain one of Downriver's elite runners for a few more seasons.

There was one more local runner who exploded on the scene this year and really deserves his mention among the elite,

Boys

Pat Roberts, Scott Kallgren, Joe Viger, Brian Alexander, Trenton; Jake Hammerle, Sam Thomas; Tony Pate; Kennedy; Jon Wojcik, Rob Bradbury, Tony Triplett, Carlin Danz, Roosevelt; Rich Miller, Brandon Ursing, Anderson; Paul Vockler, Allen Park; Justin Howell, Carlson; Matt Robin, Huron; Harley Rohloff, Grosse Ile; Aaron Shupe, Riverview; Mike Mueller, Cabrini; Dave Ulch, Lincoln Park.

and that's Kennedy's Tony Pate.

Pate was third in the News-Herald meet, but also qualified for the Class A state meet.

Trenton was the top team of any class in the area this year. In Class A, two clubs in particular stood tall.

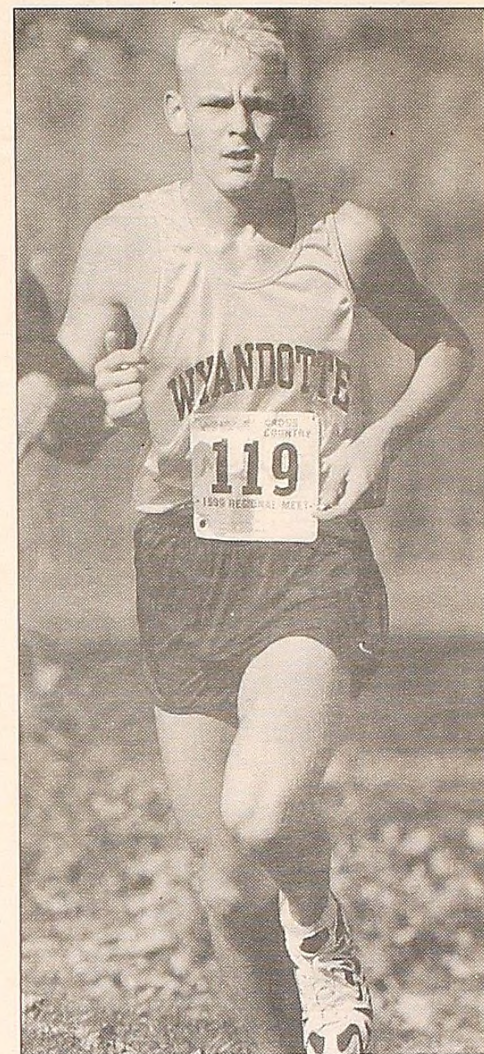
Roosevelt had a masterful finish in the regional to score a trip to the state meet.

Their fastest finisher through the year was Jon Wojcik. He placed fourth at the N-H competition and helped the Bears do well in both the Mega Red and in the post-season.

Rob Bradbury would have been more of a factor at the end of the year if not for a freak injury, but still was outstanding throughout. Other Bears who served notice included Tony Triplett and Carlin Danz, both of whom made their mark in the big meets.

Woodhaven was also a load in the Mega Red. While disappointed at not making the state meet, the Warriors still had a fine year led by Hammerle and Sam Thomas, who ran fifth at the N-H meet.

Lincoln Park came on strong this year amidst a tough schedule and came up



Roosevelt's Jon Wojcik kept up a long tradition of great distance running in Wyandotte.

with their usual fine runner. This year, the job of leader belonged to Dave Ulch, who was ninth-best in the Downriver meet.

The Mega White produced a couple of very nice runners this season.

At Anderson, a program definitely on the rise, Rich Miller was a News-Herald medalist who helped the Titans continue their upward trek. Brandon Ursing, who

See BOYS — Page 17-F



Alexander



Bradbury



Danz



Hammerle



Howell



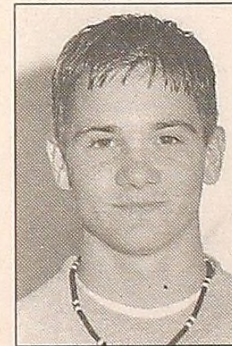
Kallgren



Mueller



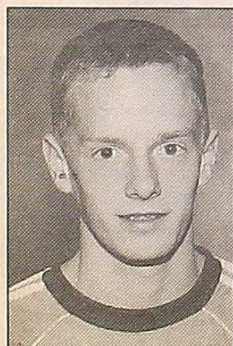
Pate



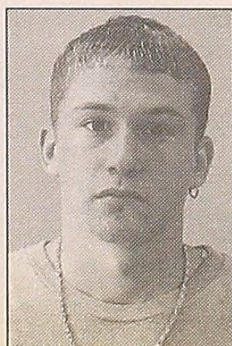
Roberts



Robin



Shupe



Thomas



Triplett



Ulch



Viger



Vockler



•Wilkins



Wojcik



Stacey Kandas was the class of the girls' field at the News-Herald meet.

Trenton runners top girls' listing

By Rick Schulte
Senior Sports Writer

Mistakes do happen.

So when Trenton Coach Eric Sturm was tallying up the point totals once the News-Herald meet was said and done, he noticed a discrepancy.

His Trojanettes still won the meet, but not by the wide margin everyone believe. In fact, his club topped Anderson by just four points.

Sturm wanted the Titans to know just what he thought of their effort, and when Coach Tony Mifsud heard it was actually a close race, he was pretty happy to tell his girls.

Speaking of honesty, it was pretty apparent Trenton and Anderson were a couple of very nice-looking teams.

And the next tier of teams all had their share of talented runners, too. That's probably why so many teams are represented on the All-Downriver Girls' Cross Country Team.

The fastest runner in the area was Trenton's **Stacey Kandas**, who easily won the all-area meet in 19 minutes, 42 seconds.

Stacey and her sister, **Stephanie Kandas**, were a consistent one-two punch all year. Teammate **Judy Shepard**, also a News-Herald medalist, jumped out and took third at the Mega Red league meet for the Trojanettes.

While the Kandas sisters were pacing Trenton, the Ursing sisters were and will likely be the area's cross country version of Jordan and Pippin.

The freshmen led Anderson to a Mega White championship, with **Briana Ursing** taking second in the N-H meet and **Danielle Ursing** just a few seconds behind in third.

Another Titan who ran well this year

Girls

Stacey Kandas, Stephanie Kandas, Judy Shepard, Trenton; Briana Ursing, Danielle Ursing, Adrienne Cholette, Anderson; Amanda Village, Janel Phillips, Roosevelt; Jackie Coch, Sarah York, Woodhaven; Tammy Chanady, Amber George, Lincoln Park; Katy Jackson, Loren Steinke, Grosse Ile; Chelsea Frazier, Allen Park; Stefanie Schmitt, Huron; Amy Buckler, Melissa Nirva, Cabrini; Kristen Sombati, Richard.

was **Adrienne Cholette**, which is especially good considering she also played basketball and ran mostly invitationals through the season.

Roosevelt was the lone Class A local squad to qualify for the state meet, thanks to a great regional showing.

Amanda Village was a top-10 finisher at the area meet and paced the Bears through regional and state competition. She was an all-Mega Red honoree.

Janel Phillips was steady as the Bears' No. 2 performer this season.

Also in the Mega Red was Woodhaven, which had a huge showing at the league meet. **Jackie Coch** and **Sarah York**, both of whom earned medals in the Downriver meet, were the Warriors' top performers.

At Lincoln Park, **Tammy Chanady** and **Amber George** were the pace-setters. Chanady and George medaled at the N-H competition.

Grosse Ile got a steady effort all year from **Katy Jackson**, one of the area's top runners. With the veteran Jackson and freshman **Loren Steinke**, the Red Devils put together a nice season.

Another freshman who came on the



Katy Jackson was the top Grosse Ile performer all season long.

scene this year and showed plenty was **Chelsea Frasier** of Allen Park. Not only did she run well at the News-Herald event, but she was also a Class B state meet qualifier.

Stefanie Schmitt of Huron, a senior, also made it to the Class B states after running 18th in the regional.

The top Catholic club in the area this

See GIRLS — Page 17-F



Buckler



Chanady



Cholette



Coch



Jackson



Stacey Kandas



Schmitt



Shepherd



Briana Ursing



Village



Frazier



George



Steph. Kandas



Nirva



Sombati



Danielle Ursing



York

Two veterans top honored swimmers

By John Miskelly

Sports Writer

Youth appeared to be the key word in Downriver swimming and diving last year.

This season there are no less than seven freshmen on the News-Herald All-Downriver team. There are a few sophomores sprinkled in for good measure, as well.

But while this year's honors team is loaded with rookies, it was two particular veteran swimmers who stood out with their accomplishments in 1999.

Roosevelt's junior Stephanie Druskinis did it all in the water this season; most of the time her accomplishments seemed effortless.

"It's not effortlessly," said Druskinis, following her top-notch performance at the Oct. 16 News Herald Invitational.

However, her work at the N-H, as well as her work all season long, did make it appear that she was on cruise control, beating her competition at will and badly to boot.

Among Druskinis' accomplishments were two firsts at the September Wayne Invitational, two firsts at the N-H Invitational, and one first at the Mega Red League Meet.

Also, Druskinis' name appears in the Downriver's top eight in seven of eight individual events.

She is first in the 100 free, the 200 free and the 100 backstroke, second in the 50 free and third in the 500 free.

At Trenton, Liz Watkins began training in May in the early hours every morning and it paid off in November at the state finals.

Watkins finished 10th in the 500 freestyle in Class B-C-D with a time of 5:29.41. She also anchored two free relay teams, which placed eighth and 10th best in the state.

Among Watkins other accomplishments was a first in the 500 in both the Wayne Invitational and the News-Herald Invitational.

She, like Druskinis, posted top-eight times in seven of eight individual events.

Both Watkins and Druskinis are 1999 co-Most Valuable Swimmers.

Here is the rest of the N-H 1998 all-area swim team:

Amy Banker, Riverview: One of two Riverview freshmen named to the All-Downriver team.

Banker qualified for state final competition in the 200 individual medley. Her 200 IM time was third best Downriver.

Alexis Cardoza, Grosse Ile: Cardoza's best event was the 100 backstroke.

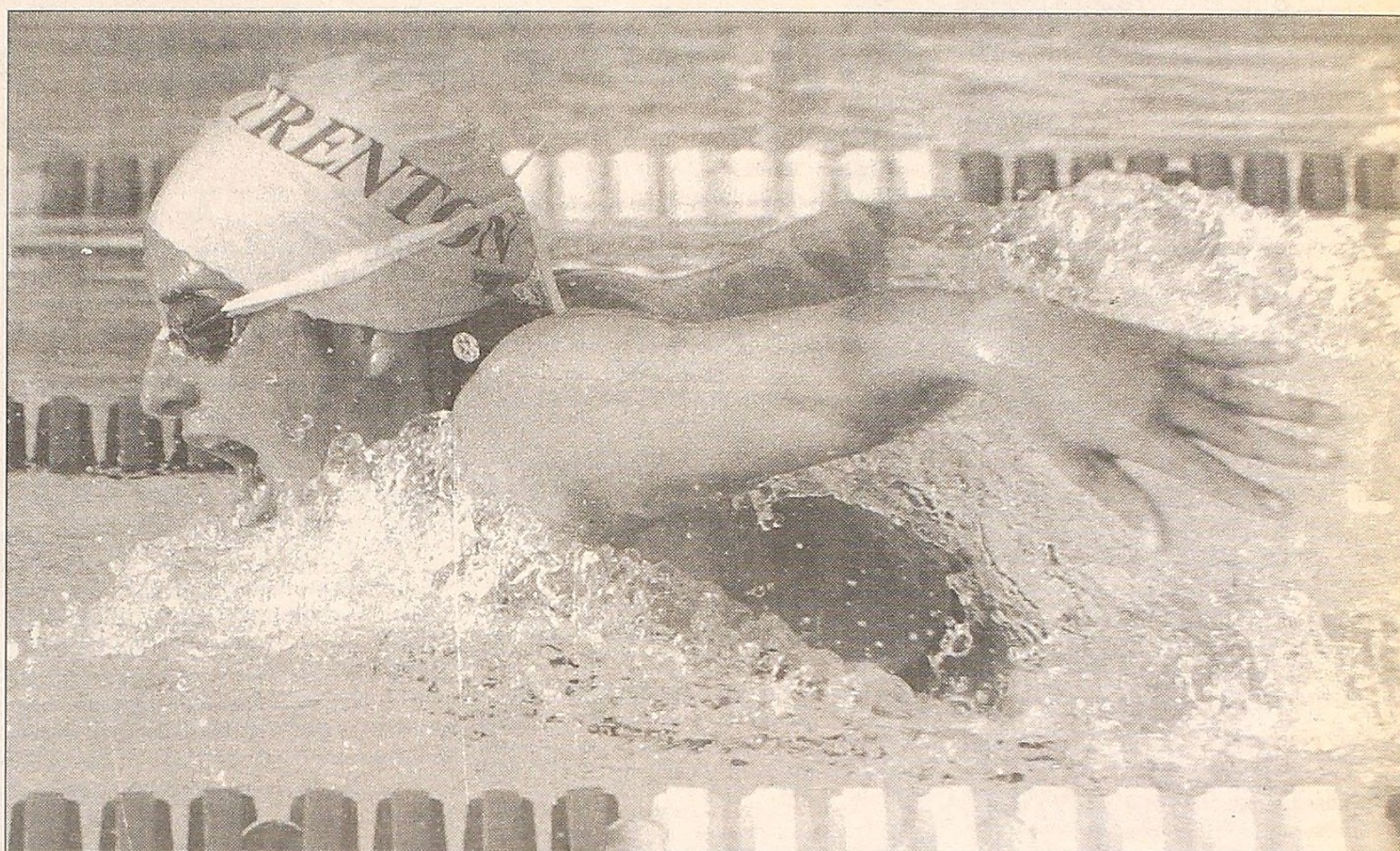
She placed third Downriver and qualified for the Class B-C-D State Finals as well. Cardoza took 21st during preliminary competition.

Elyse Cocco, Woodhaven: Took two seconds at the Mega White League Meet and was named to the all-league team as well.

Placed in the top eight Downriver in the 200 freestyle.

Desiree Cordts, Huron: Cordts was a strong second-half swimmer for the Chiefs.

She reached the state finals in both the 50 and 100 free. She placed in the top eight Downriver in both aforementioned



Photos by Greg Shamus

Trenton's Liz Watkins' name appeared among the area leaders in seven of eight individual events. She is one of the two area MVPs.

events.

Kara Cordell, Woodhaven: Listed in the top eight Downriver in the 100 breaststroke.

She was named to the Mega White all-league team and was a key element for the Warriors as the team took second overall in the White.

Melissa Dettloff, Carlson: Led the Marauders by example this season, including coming back from mononucleosis, instead of staying sidelined.

Placed in the top eight Downriver in the 100 breaststroke.

Emily Dolan, Trenton: This sophomore was one of several Trenton Trojanettes to qualify individually for state finals.

Was a member of the eighth-place 200 free relay at the state finals.

Meredith Douglas, Grosse Ile: A veteran who placed on last season's all-area team as well.

Along with teammate Sara Beth Gale-Barbantini gave the team an outstanding one-two punch in freestyle distance events.

Kara Eschbach, Grosse Ile: Took an 11th place finish at state finals competition.

Won the breaststroke at the News-Herald Invitational and the Huron League Swim Meet.

Sara Beth Gale-Barbantini, Grosse Ile: A freshman who had a particularly strong early portion of the season.

Gale-Barbantini took two thirds at the N-H, including one in the 500 free. This event appeared to be her strongest as she posted the sixth best time Downriver.

Natalie Iacopelli, Anderson: One of two Titans on the all-area squad, Iacopelli posted a tremendous rookie campaign.



Stephanie Druskinis was Roosevelt's top swimmer and she is one of two All-Downriver MVPs.

See SWIM — Page 13-F

ALL-DOWNRIVER SWIMMING

SWIM

Continued from Page 12-F

She took second twice finishing behind a couple of fellow all-area swimmers at the N-H and won two events at the Mega Blue League Meet as well.

Erin Keyes, Truman: Was named to the All-Mega White team after taking a second and a fourth-place finish at the league meet.

Has been a key factor in bringing Truman into swimming respectability.

Jenny Kujala, Trenton: One of two divers on this year's all-area team.

Qualified for state finals; took third at the Wayne Invitational; and placed second at the News-Herald Invitational.

Katie Livingston, Trenton: A junior who emerged as the area's best diver.

Took 11th-place at the state finals and won both the Wayne Invitational and the News-Herald Invitational.

Gena Long, Huron: Also on the all-area team as a sophomore, Gena won the 50 free at the News-Herald Invitational and owned the area's best time in the event.

She placed 12th in the 50 free at the Class B-C-D State Finals.

Lindsey Long, Huron: Though she suffered something of a sophomore jinx Lindsay was still named Huron League Swimmer of the Year.

Took a 12th-place finish in the 100 free at state finals. Owned the area's best time in the 100 backstroke.

Stacey Mathison, Huron: Another key member of Huron's two free relay teams.

Traveled to state finals and was a member on the 11th-place 200 free relay.

Amanda Millitello, Woodhaven: A member of the all-Mega White team, Millitello was one of the Warriors' leaders.

Was in the top eight Downriver in the 100 backstroke.

Jesi Roze, Trenton: Last season Roze was simply one of the team's best relay swimmers. She remained just that in 1999, but added individual accomplishments to her repertoire as well.

One of her shining moments was a first-place finish in the 50 free at the Wayne Invitational.

Celeste Simon, Riverview: According to Coach Debby Leggeri, this super-freshman only got stronger as the year progressed.

Simon listed in the top eight Downriver in the 100 butterfly. The fly was quite possibly the most competitive event locally.

Megan Sprunk, Roosevelt: Overshadowed on the Bears behind co-Swimmer of the Year Stephanie Druskinis, but a top-notch performer in her own right.

Sprunk took a third in the 100 butterfly at the Wayne Invitational and a fourth at the News Herald Invitational in the same event.

Eszter Szabo, Lincoln Park: An exchange student who surprised more than a handful of people when she took second in the 100 butterfly at the News Herald Invitational.

She was named co-Swimmer of the Year in the Mega White.

Chelsie Strong, Huron: Also named to the all-area team last season, Strong was a key component in Coach Amy Kidd's relays.

Attended Class B-C-D state finals where she swam with the 200 and 400 free relays. The 200 free took 11th in the state.

Alisha Taurence, Trenton: This freshman, who at times felt slighted and overshadowed, stepped up as the season wore on.

Taurence took one first at the Wayne Invitational and two at the News-Herald Invitational. She qualified for state final competition in two events, but did not advance past preliminaries.

Rachel Thomson, Allen Park: One of Coach Tom Martin's most dependable swimmers in 1999.

Thomson placed in the top eight Downriver in the 200 freestyle.

Heather Wilkin, Carlson: Took a third-place finish in the 100 breaststroke at the News Herald Invitational and placed third in two events at the Mega White League Meet.

Was named to the White all-league team.

Carly Zenk, Anderson: One of two fabulous freshmen for first-year Coach Linda Robert, Zenk took a first at the News Herald Invitational in the 100 freestyle as well as two firsts at the Mega Blue League Meet.



Dettloff



Dolan



Mathison



Millitello



Douglas



Druskinis



Roze



Simon



Eschbach



Gale-Barbantini



Sprunk



Strong



Iacopelli



Keyes



Szabo



Taurence



Cocco



Kujala



Livingston



Thomson



Watkins



Banker



Cardoza



Cordell



Cordts



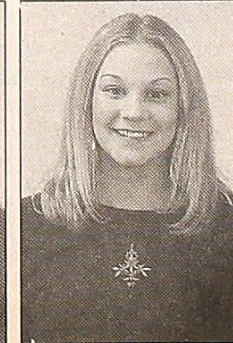
Lindsey Long



Gena Long



Wilkin



Zenk

Pirate star enjoys a 'Dream' season

Riverview's Thurman heads the area's top hoop squad

By Hank Minckiewicz

Heritage Sports Editor

Sometimes the numbers don't tell the whole story on a player.

Sometimes, however, they do.

News-Herald 1999 girls' basketball Dream Team MVP Jen Thurman has numbers that would make a mathematician drool.

Thurman, who will attend Division I Tennessee Tech, finished her remarkable high school career with 1,289 points.

That ranks her first on the all-time Riverview scoring list.

But Thurman was more than just a scorer. She was a playmaker, a rebounder and a defensive pest.

Those things are reflected in her career numbers, too. Thurman is first all-time in steals, second in assists and third in rebounds.

"The thing that made Jen great is that she did everything so well," said Coach Rob Sauter. "She had great skills and she just excelled in all facets of the game."

Sauter said his favorite Thurman trait was her ability to deliver the ball to a teammate in a position so that the teammate could handle it.

"Jen had a great shooting touch, obviously, Sauter said. "But she also had a great touch in delivering the ball."

"That's a real skill in itself. She knew what kind of passes each of her teammates could handle."

Thurman finished the 1999 season averaging just a shade under 18 points a game. She averaged 4.5 steals, rebounds and assists.

She is joined on the "Dream Team" by these players:

Tiffany Smolak, Grosse Ile: The best player on an exceptional team, Smolak, just a junior, helped lead the Red Devils to Huron League and Class B district championships.

Coach Steve Sims' "go-to" player, Smolak responded with a huge season.

She averaged 14 points and seven rebounds a game, despite missing significant playing time because many of Grosse Ile's games turned into blowouts.

"I told her at the start of the season that she needed to be a little tougher," Sims said. "I didn't have to tell her twice. She's a very good player."

Smolak shot 57 percent from the floor and 68 percent from the free-throw line.

Brandi Winrow, Carlson: One of the top point-getters Downriver with more than 17 points per contest. Her exceptional scoring prowess shined through in the form of her 1,000 career point during her team's Mega Gold winning season.

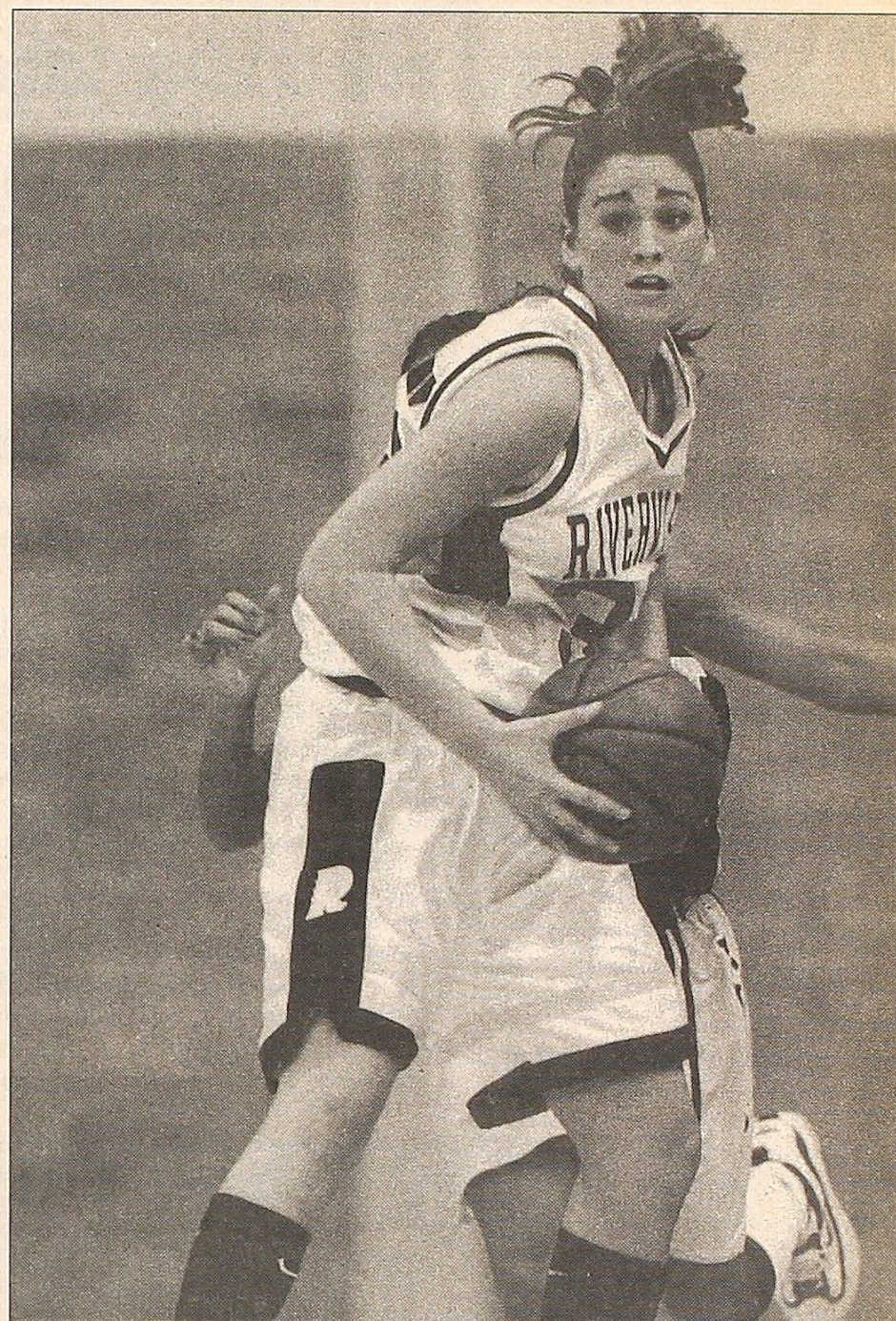
Posted more than 30 points in a game several times and had the ability, according to Carlson Coach Jeff Brenning, to effectively to score both inside and out.

Also finished the season at the top of the leaders Downriver in both assists and steals.

Beth Fortuna, Roosevelt: One of the dominant players in the area and in the Michigan Mega Conference. The 6-foot-1 Fortuna averaged 15 points a game and waged some epic battles Belleville's Kilgore sisters, Ryann and Kristen.

Fortuna, who was all league, scored 345 points and grabbed 238 rebounds for

See DREAM — Page 15-F



Riverview's Jen Thurman capped her senior season by leading the all-area hoop team.

Dream Team

Jen Thurman, Riverview
Beth Fortuna, Roosevelt
Maureen O'Malley, Light and Life
Kelly Lanagan, Roosevelt
Tiffany Smolak, Grosse Ile
Brandi Winrow, Carlson

Class A

Fortuna, Lanagan, Tricia May, Roosevelt; Melinda Shortridge, Uzoma Anyanetu, Truman; Casey Manning, Anderson; Mindy Konarska, Woodhaven; Corey Johnson, Tiffany Durham, Lincoln Park; Erin Gdowski, Kennedy.

Class B

Thurman, Kelly Ballantine, Karen Fair, Riverview; Winrow, Jenny Swanson, Jenni Hewlett, Carlson; Erin Taylor, Allen Park; Smolak, Angela Strong, Lisa Campau, Grosse Ile; Carolyn Grutza, Katie VanGoethem, Trenton.

Class C-D

Bonnie Baker, Lindsay Hibbler, Cabrini; Jamie Bobrowski, Mt. Carmel; O'Malley, Alicia Blossom, Katie Paladino, Light and Life; Callie Gizicki, Monica Rensi, Kathy Buxton, Richard; Rachel Bak; Julie Petri, Baptist Park; Beth DeCorte, Shannon Brodie, Flat Rock.

Second team

Trish Roberts, Sara Lesko, Jenny Brown, Trenton; Marie McLenaghan, Allen Park; Lindsay Bottrell, Grosse Ile; Stephanie Demos, Baptist Park; Stacy Balamucki, Roosevelt; Colleen Daniel, Cabrini; Erin Sadjak and Gloria Wilson, Lincoln Park; Jennifer Stec, Kennedy; Kelly Knapp, Anderson; Diane DelDucco, Woodhaven; Shaw-Na Clevenger, Truman; Jessica Jackson, Romulus.



Thurman



Smolak



Fortuna



O'Malley



Lanagan



Winrow

ALL-DOWNRIVER BASKETBALL

DREAM

Continued from Page 14-F

Coach Tom DeSana's team. She helped the Bears to 20 victories and a district championship.

Kelly Lanagan, Roosevelt: Lanagan was a 40 percent three-point shooter and a 70 percent free-throw shooter for the Mega Red runner-up Bears.

An all league performer, Lanagan scored 279 points in 23 games.

A guard, she had 78 assists and 84 steals.

Maureen O'Malley, Light and Life: O'Malley scored her 1,000 the career point a couple games into the season for the Crusaders, but the guard has improved her all-around game tremendously this season.

She's always had the ability to make three-pointers at a frantic pace; she does hold the national high school record with 15 in a game.

This season, O'Malley averaged 14.1 points a game, and lifted her assists up to 4.4 a game, and her steals to 3.1 a game.

Steve Sims and Tom DeSana: Sims guided Grosse Ile to league and district title, while DeSana took his Roosevelt Bears to a second-place showing in the Mega Red and a Class A district title.

Sims, who put together the Huron League most dominant program in the 1990s, compiled a 20-plus victory season in 1999. His team's only stumbling block was Dearborn Divine Child, which beat Grosse Ile twice.

DeSana's team stumbled against Belleville, the Mega Red champ, twice last season.

Roosevelt's only other losses came against Redford Thurston in the Mega Tournament and in the Class A state regionals.



Two of the best around, Roosevelt's Beth Fortuna and Bellville's Kristen Kilgore battle. Fortuna landed on the News-Herald Dream Team.

CLASS A

Melinda Shortridge, Truman: How valuable was she to the Cougars? When she was healthy, the Cougars were at the top of the Mega White.

When she took her 13 points to the sideline with an injury, the Cougars slid all the way to a third-place tie.

Uzoma Anyanetu, Truman: Anyanetu just plain hustled, getting eight points and seven rebounds a night and doing all the small things Coach Chuck Suttles could ask of his post player.

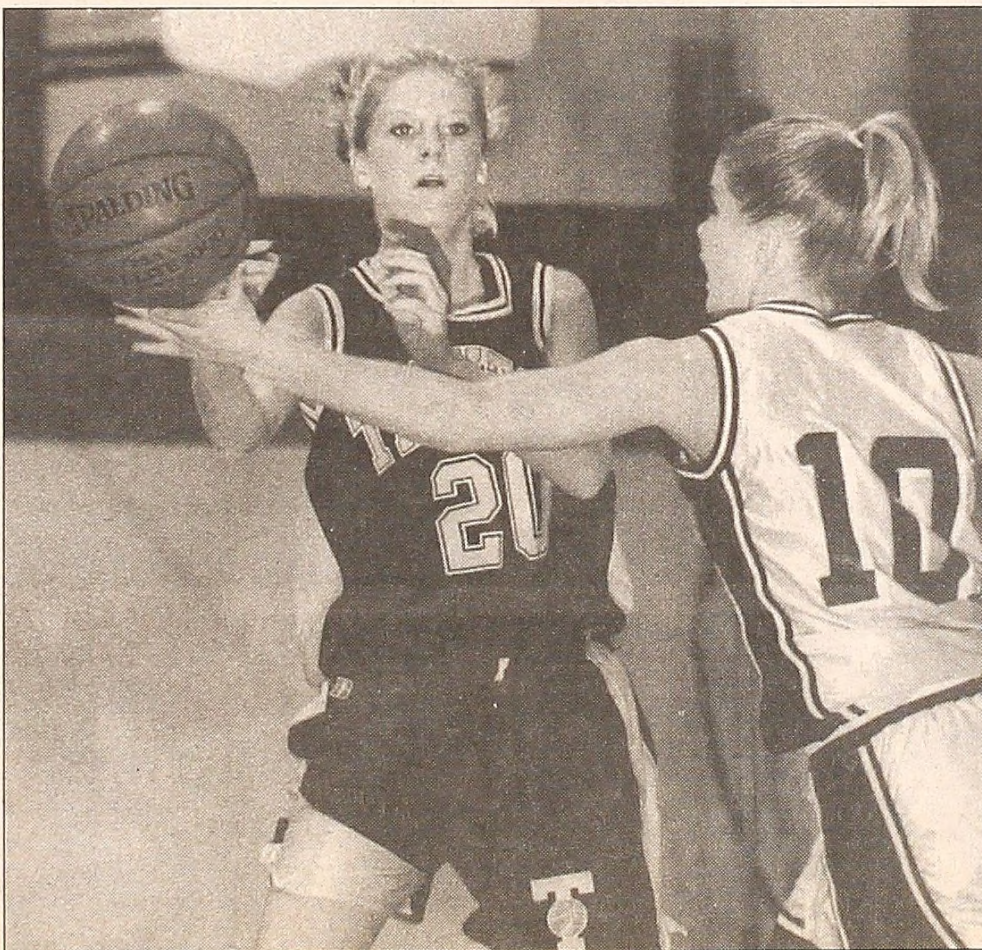
Casey Manning, Anderson: The sophomore showed plenty of promise by averaging 15.5 points per game to go with 7.5 rebounds and 2.0 assists. Her talent ceiling is pretty high, according to Coach Dave Arnold.

"She really could play any of the five positions," Arnold said.

Mindy Konarska, Woodhaven: The Warriors played hard this year, and Konarska wound up being the best of the battlers.

Konarska averaged 10.5 rebounds a game and also averaged 9.0 points a night.

Corey Johnson, Lincoln Park: A junior forward, Johnson was a streaky scorer, but still was the Railsplitters' main offensive threat.



Trenton's Katie VanGoethem (20) is on the all-Class-B team mainly due to her 41-percent three-point shooting.

CLASS B

Lisa Campau, Grosse Ile: Campau, an all Huron League pick, started all 24 games for Coach Steve Sims' Grosse Ile team. She averaged nearly nine points a game for the league champ Red Devils.

Carolyn Grutza, Trenton: Trenton's leading scorer with 10 points per game. She tied for the team lead with 121 rebounds.

"She was our workhorse; our go-to player," said Coach John Biedenbach.

Kelly Ballentine, Riverview: Ballentine sometimes got lost in the long shadow cast by teammate Jen Thurman, the News-Herald Dream Team MVP. But she was not overshadowed in Coach Rob Sauter's eyes.

"She is a great on-the-ball defender," Sauter said.

And she had an offensive game, too, averaging 9.3 points and 2.7 assists every time out.

Katie VanGoethem, Trenton: Averaged nearly eight points per game and was a deadly accurate three-point shooter, hitting 41 percent from beyond the arc. She led the team with 68 assists and had 90 rebounds and 45 steals.

Angela Strong, Grosse Ile: Another of Coach Steve Sims' real solid players, Strong averaged 8.1 points and 5.5

See CLASS A — Page 17-F

See CLASS B — Page 17-F

BASKETBALL

Bonnie Baker, Cabrini: If you haven't figured this out yet, watch this girl in her next three seasons.

A tough cut from Dream-Team honors, the Monarch freshman averaged 17.5 points, 10.2 rebounds, 5.5 steals and 3.9 assists a game.

She scored over 30 points several times in her first high school campaign.

Beth DeCorte, Flat Rock: DeCorte capped a great high school career by being named to Monroe County Player of the Year.

In 1999 she averaged 13.2 points, 6.8 rebounds, 7.6 assists and 3.9 steals per game.

She was a four-year starter for Coach Joe Flkood's team and she was a unanimous all Huron League selection.

She finished her career with 979 points.

Lindsey Hibbler, Cabrini: Hibbler improved dramatically in her senior season as a Monarch.

She finished with averages of 10.8 rebounds and 7.0 points a game this season.

Jamie Bobrowski, Mount Carmel: Another tough cut from the Dream Team, Bobrowski has almost carried Mount Carmel for three seasons.

In her final high school campaign this season, the Comet center finished with averages of 16.6 points and 11.8 rebounds a game.

Alicia Blossom, Light and Life: Like teammate Maureen O'Malley, Blossom stepped up her game this season.

The junior finished with averages of 11.2 points and 8.9 rebounds a game this season.

Katie Paladino, Light and Life: A scrappy player for Coach Kelly Collins, Paladino finished her high school campaign with a strong season.

She was among the area leaders in rebounding, and provided the Crusaders with scoring at key times on their way to their first district title.

Callie Gizicki, Gabriel Richard: Gizicki, now a senior, was another tough one to keep off the Dream Team.

She finished among area leaders in several categories, finishing with averages of 15.1 points, 5.8 assists and 3.8 steals a game this season.

Shannon Brodie, Flat Rock: Just a sophomore, Brodie averaged an impressive eight points and 10 rebounds a game.

She combined with DeCorte to lead the Rams to a 13-victory season in 1999. Flat Rock tied with Monroe SMCC for third place in the Huron League.

Julie Petri, Baptist Park: Just a junior, Petri led a young but improving Baptist Park team in 1999. She averaged more than 10 points and eight rebounds a game, but a team loaded with youngsters. She will team with sophomore Stephanie Demos to make the Wildcats a factor in 2000.

Monica Rensi, Richard: Another Pioneer senior, Rensi was tough inside for Coach Jim Duffy.

Rensi finished with averages of 10.4 points, 7.1 rebounds and 2.6 assists a game this year.

Kathy Buxton, Richard: Buxton provided Richard with a lift at key times with some big scoring numbers.

She finished among area leaders with 8.6 points per game, 8.8 rebounds a game, and 2.3 assists a game.

Rachel Bak, Aquinas: Coach Bryan Farrell's best all-around player, the junior had a solid season.

Bak finished with an average of nine points a game and 2.5 steals a game.

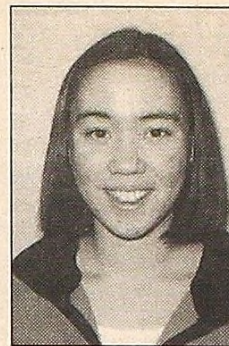
CLASS C-D



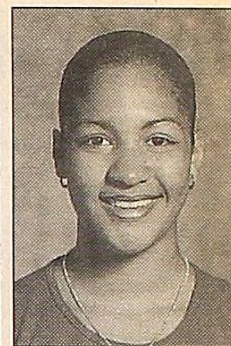
Petri



Grutza



Ballentine



Fair



Buxton



Shortridge



VanGoethem



Manning



Taylor



Swanson



Campau



DeCorte



Johnson



Bobrowski



Rensi



Dunham



Hibbler



Gizicki



Blossom



Paladino



Baker



Strong



Beth DeCorte was a deft passer as well as a gifted scorer. She finished her career just shy of the 1,000-point mark.



Erin Taylor scored more than 300 points in 1999 and she set a pair of Michigan Mega Conference Red Division records.



Grosse Ile's Harvey Rohloff was the top Red Devil runner this season.



Joe Viger was a solid member of Trenton's pack.

CLASS B

Continued from Page 15-F

rebounds per game. She was a 67 percent free-throw shooter.

Erin Taylor, Allen Park: An all Mega Red performer, Taylor scored 301 points and averaged 14.4 a game. She scored a league-record seven three-pointers in one game and made a league-record 78 percent of her free throws.

Karen Fair, Riverview: Fair was the basketball focal point for several years at Aquinas. When she transferred to Riverview, she became just one of several excellent players on the court.

She helped Riverview to 13 wins this season by averaging 10 points and 8.6 rebounds a game.

Jenny Swanson, Carlson: Though she experienced a tough season, which included time off from hoop due to a powder puff football injury, Swanson managed to average more than 10 points per game.

Along with Dream-Teamer Brandi Winrow was a key offensive weapon for the Marauders. She was an accurate outside shooter.

Jenni Hewlett, Carlson: A small guard who was the team's defensive spark plug and held an average of over three steals per game.

Coach Jeff Brenning relied on Hewlett to take out the opposition's key scorer/playmaker. One of the reasons the Marauders took the Mega Gold crown in 1999.

BOYS

Continued from Page 10-F

was a consistent No. 2 for one of the best local teams, also was a big contributor.

Allen Park had a very good runner in **Paul Vockler**, who also helped his team do better than many would have expected.

At Carlson, sophomore **Justin Howell** improved mightily through the year and came on to qualify for the Class B state meet.

The Huron League did well for itself this season, as far as local individuals go.

Huron's **Matt Robin** was seventh-best in

the area meet, and also was a Class B state qualifier.

Harley Rohloff had Grosse Ile's top finish in the News-Herald meet, making the tier of medal-qualifiers.

At Riverview, **Aaron Shupe** hit the top 20 in the Class B regional, and that was good enough to send the senior packing to the state meet.

One more team that trained especially hard to make itself a late-season hit was Cabrini, and leading the way was **Mike Mueller**. He placed 10th in the Class C regional at Erie-Mason, where the Monarchs placed third to advance to the state meet.

GIRLS

Continued from Page 11-F

season was Cabrini, which had a pair of all-area honorees.

Amy Buckler ran 13th to medal at the News-Herald meet. And the Monarchs'

top finisher in the regional competition at Erie Mason was **Melissa Nirva**, who captured fourth place.

Gabriel Richard's **Kristen Sombati** had another fine season, crossing as the top finisher Downriver in the Class C state meet.

CLASS A

Continued from Page 15-F

Johnson finished the season on the all-Mega Blue team, averaging 9.3 points and 6.2 rebounds a game.

Tiffany Durham, Lincoln Park: Just a freshman, Durham gave Lincoln Park a big, hard-to-stop option at center.

Durham finished up with 9.1 points and 7.2 rebounds a game, and landed on the all-Mega Blue team.

Erin Gdowski, Kennedy: Gdowski was Kennedy's main offensive threat, and also a tough player to beat on defense.

The senior guard finished with 7 points and 2.5 steals a game, and was also on the all-Blue squad.

Tricia May, Roosevelt: The 5-foot-10 May was a strong rebounder and a hard worker for Coach Tom DeSana's Bears. She had 111 points and 110 rebounds to go along with 35 assists and 30 steals.

"She gave 100 percent at all times," DeSana said.



Lincoln Park's Cory Johnson was an unstoppable force in the Mega Blue this season.

A-FOOTBALL

Continued from Page 7-F

The 310-pound senior played both ways for the Cougars in 1999.

"Kris is a player who would start for any of the 'A' schools in the area," Clawson said.

Jim Taraszkievicz, Anderson: a tail-

back, noseguard and punter, Taraszkievicz was one of Anderson's real dependable players.

"He did not carry the ball much," Coach John Rama said, "but his blocking percentage in passing situations was over 95 percent.

Defensively, Taraszkievicz, a fast and aggressive noseguard, had two sacks. He punted six times for a 50-yard average.

SOCCER

Continued from Page 7-F

Kypros' school record goals against mark.

White was also named to the all-area first team as a sophomore.

Mark Kraatz, Inter-City: Kraatz led his Chargers, a team top-heavy with senior leadership, to a 17-win season and a Michigan Independent Athletic

Conference title.

Though the Chargers had its skeptics due to being a Division IV team, Kraatz led his team to non-league wins over Division II Trenton and a road victory at Division III Grosse Ile.

Kraatz has been the head coach of Inter-City for 10 years winning four district crowns, four regional crowns and guided the Chargers to state semi-final play twice.

Class A

Offensive backs: Nick Miller, Roosevelt; Corey Strader, Kennedy; Jeff Powell, Roosevelt; Phil Short, Lincoln Park.

Offensive linemen: Dan Graham, Anderson; Mike Olsen, Woodhaven; Kris Blanchard, Truman; John Atkinson, Kennedy.

Receivers: Justin Ptak, Roosevelt; Drew Katona, Lincoln Park, Tony Flatt, Anderson.

Defensive linemen: Andy Thomas, Lincoln Park; John Markovitz, Kennedy; Nick Bower, Roosevelt; Jim Taraszewicz, Anderson; Pat Cosgrove, Woodhaven.

Linebackers: Lee Willmuth, Truman; Jim Pero, Woodhaven; Steve Brant, Truman; Jeremy Wright, Lincoln Park.

Defensive backs: Shawn Willmuth, Truman; Bob Garza, Anderson; Scott Pearce, Roosevelt.

Class B

Offensive backs: Jason Straub, Carlson; Dan Templin, Allen Park; Mike Fisher, Trenton; Sean Laura, Carlson; Charles Thompson, Romulus; Martel Foster, Rouge.

Offensive linemen: Charles Mosby, Romulus; Kyle Ashlin, Carlson; Eric Aguirre, Melvindale; Brent Huck, Riverview; Richard Lewis, Melvindale; John Ruehle, Allen Park.

Specialist: Casey Watson, Riverview

Defensive linemen: Chad Steele, Riverview; Tony Robledo, Trenton; Craig Shepherd, Allen Park; Kyle Dodd, Riverview.

Linebackers: Vaughn Peterson, Rouge; Ray Graves, Romulus; Ricky Foster, Romulus; Nick Barzo, Carlson; Dave Fenbert, Grosse Ile; Ken Kerr, Allen Park.

Defensive backs: Kris Zajac, Grosse Ile; Dan Kovarik, Allen Park.

Punter: Troy Rizzuto, Trenton.

Class C-D

Offense: Martin Chorkey, Richard; Adrian Price, Flat Rock; Chris Gruse, Mt. Carmel; Alan Palmiter, Mt. Carmel; Jason Alexander, Ecorse; Shane Polley, Light & Life; Mike Grimaldo, Light & Life; Craig Carroll, Richard; Tom Compian, Light & Life.

Defense: Don Lezotte, Flat Rock; Brandon Williams, Cabrini; Tom Sekmistrz, Flat Rock; Bryan Grabowski, Mt. Carmel; Jon Wallace, Richard; Brian Gorski, Cabrini; Matt LePage, Cabrini, Stave Suda, Cabrini; Brandon Buzanowski, Richard.

SECOND TEAM

Offensive backs: Nate Wellman, Melvindale; Justin Newsome, Trenton; Rocky Fitzsimmons, Roosevelt; Jarvis Jordan, Romulus; Tom Oestrike, Flat Rock; Kyle Cline, Kyle Kennedy, Light & Life; Bobby Marten, Allen Park.

Offensive linemen: Brian Harper, Myron Mosby, Romulus; Matt Martinez, Melvindale; Dave Gibbs, Truman; Ted Howard, Flat Rock; Drew Green Roosevelt; Rod Kunch, Jon Frendo, Carlson; Adam Swauger, Woodhaven; Justin Vos, Trenton; Brad Pershon, Kennedy.

Receivers: Anthony Saucedo, Melvindale; Joe Goins, Andersons; Chris Christoff, Riverview; Brandon Redli, Trenton; Kevin Thomas, Romulus; Todd Graham, Flat Rock; Jerry Martin, Lincoln Park.

Defensive linemen: Drew Demaray, Grosse Ile; Percy Pierce, Rouge; Mark Larsen, Riverview; John Wester, Romulus; Mark Havens, Cabrini.

Linebackers: Darryl Folks, Rouge; Dave Kus, Woodhaven; Chuck Yacuone, Trenton; Jon Turgeon, Carlson.

Defensive backs: Joe Finley, Rouge; Brad Myers, Woodhaven; Jason Bono, Riverview; Will Orr, Trenton; Eric Timmons, Roosevelt; Adam Straub, Carlson; Ryan Atcheson, Flat Rock; Naizh O'Neal, Truman.

Punter: Lamar Toney, Rouge.

Kicker: Dave Nyholm, Flat Rock.

Specialist: Eric Hicks, Truman

HONORABLE MENTION

Jim Burnett, Vince Gonzalez, Paul Doutsas, Bill Winczner, Melvindale; Dave Nester, Jeremy Lisicki, Brian Wade, Mike Owens, Kennedy; Tony Roberts, Zach Short, Brent McDermott, Dave Frazier, Dave Martel, Andy Yermack, Joe Smith, Eric Lapko, Allen Park; Mike Waddle, Lincoln Park; Jacob Pawlak, Joe Witz, Calen Jablonski, Light & Life; Nate Niefert, Ryan Brown, Scott Delanderville, Kyle Fater, Flat Rock; Dustin Cline, Don Scheller, Mike Kinney, Jacob Pote, Charles Armstrong, Dan Parrish, Dale Bodinus, Matt Harris, Charles Elswick, Carlson; Ryan McLain, Landon Greene, Tony McGraw, Chris McLemore, Nick Toboy, Roosevelt; Troy Golba, Joe Waskiewicz, Ed Sawicki, Ken Cody, John Zefasko, Jon Clarchick, Trenton; Jason Motorojescu, John Hoffa, Riverview; Brandon Scheffler, Chris Sutherlin, Jon Pero, Mike Curcuru, Derek Reasey, Joe Dixon, Woodhaven; Jason Shinn, Steve Haislip, Tom Garza, Tim Adkins, Mike Minckiewicz, Tim Tokarz, Jason Hodgkinson, Anderson; Brandon Ehausa, Tony Hardy; Deshaun Fields, Courtney Haynes, Keith Jackson, Rouge; Chris Talley, Michael Woods, DeJuan McClendon, Dave Moomaw, Mark Carter, Shawntez Gregory, Travis Whitehead, Tavrean Walker, Romulus; Ethan Hamula, Scott McIssac, Kevin Ward, Grosse Ile; Rick Patton, Scott McGaw, Lewis Blevins, Jim Asius, Dave Cerda, Mount Carmel; Steve Antalics, Sean Tharpe, Steve Leja, Bryan DeLamilles, Rich Gorski, Cabrini; Carnell Williams, Jamie Green, Ecorse.

CLASS C-D

Continued from Page 6-F

A two-way player, Buzanowski not only was the team's quarterback, but he also started in the defensive secondary for Coach Pat Sieszputowski.

Shane Polley, Light and Life: A senior, Polley captained the 1999 Light and Life team. He was named all-Catholic League and was the team's MVP.

A guard on offense, Polley was a 95 percent blocker. He had 104 tackles from his linebacker post.

"Shane's speed allowed him to pull and place some devastating hits on cornerbacks," said Coach George Kennedy. "He was also our leading tackler."

Chris Gruse, Mt. Carmel: This speedy junior was a huge part of Mount Carmel's offense in 1999.

He rushed for more than 1,000 yards and added another 361 in receiving yards. He scored a whopping 18 touchdowns, including one on a kick return.

As a defensive back, Gruse had 51 tackles.

Tom Sekmistrz, Flat Rock: Linebacker Sekmistrz led Flat Rock in tackles this season with 112. He also caused three fumbles, recovered one and had three quarterback sacks.

"He is the hardest hitter on our team," said Coach Rob Hogg. "He reads well and has a nose for the ball."

Adrian Price, Flat Rock: A senior tailback, Price rushed for 664 yards and four touchdowns in 1999.

He also had 105 yards worth of receiving yardage and 150 in return yards.

"Adrian is a very good runner in the open field," Hogg said.

Matt Lepage, Cabrini: Lepage was a jack-of-all trades for Coach Bryan O'Brycki's team.

He was a wingback where he ran the ball, caught passes and blocked. He had 150 rushing yards, 97 receiving yards and 83 return yards.

O'Brycki called Lepage "150 pounds of all-out effort."

As a defensive back, he had 48 tackles and intercepted a pass.

Tom Compian, Light and Life: Despite often drawing double coverage, Compian had a team-high 26 catches and eight touchdowns. He had 448 receiving yards.

Coach George Kennedy said the junior



Allan Palmiter (Aquinas) quarterbacked the co-op Mount Carmel team this season.

had "super glue hands and real quickness."

A linebacker and safety on defense, Compian had 63 tackles, two fumble recoveries and a blocked kick.

Don Lezotte, Flat Rock: A senior, Lezotte was the best defensive lineman on the Flat Rock team.

"He was very hard to block one-on-one," Coach Rob Hogg said. "He was double-teammed a lot during the season. Still, he managed 66 tackles."

Mike Grimaldo, Light and Life: One of Light and Life's captains, Grimaldo, a junior, played center and inside linebacker.

He was a 93 percent blocker on offense and collected 62 tackles on defense.

"Mike exhibited strong leadership skills," said Coach George Kennedy. "He is a very hard worker and is self-motivated."

Brandon Williams, Cabrini: A defensive end, Williams had 57 total tackles in 1999 and six quarterback sacks.

"Brandon was one of our best athletes," said Coach Bryan O'Brycki.

He proved that by playing all over the field. In addition to defense, he punted, returned kicks, ran the ball and caught passes.

Steve Suda, Cabrini: A four-year letter winner at Cabrini, Suda played five different positions for the Monarch this season.

"He does all the little things you need to do in football," said O'Brycki. "He is unselfish, tough and hard-nosed."

He had 28 tackles on defense this season.

CLASS B

Continued from Page 6-F

Chad Steele, Riverview: Steele, a junior, has started every game since his freshman season.

He has developed into an excellent blocking fullback and a fine defensive tackle, according to Coach Don Lessner.

He rushed for 414 yards and eight touchdowns this year.

Defensively, he had 69 tackles. He was also Riverview's punter.

Sean Laura, Carlson: Laura is "a guard in quarterback's clothing," said Carlson Coach Jim McDonald. "He is a great leader."

Laura rushed for 542 yards and eight touchdowns and passed for 616 yards and four more scores and the Marauders qualified for the state playoffs.

Brent Huck, Riverview: Huck was a two-

year starter for Riverview and played on both the offensive and defensive lines.

"He was a real dedicated athlete and a positive leader," said Coach Don Lessner.

A take-charge type player, Huck was named first team all Huron League and he carries a 4.0 GPA.

Kyle Ashlin, Carlson: Coach Jim McDonald said Ashlin is "The best offensive tackle I have coached in many years."

The 310-pound senior caved in the left side of opposing defenses with regularity.

He was a 93 percent blocker and was picked to the all Mega Blue team.

Troy Rizzuto, Trenton: Rizzuto was one of the top punters around. He kicked for a 42.3 average and got his team out of many jams with his big foot.

The junior touched the ball only 25 times on offense (six rushed and 19 pass receptions), but he scored five times and gained nearly 400 yards.

Less-than-suprising Devils lead the way

By Rick Schulte

Senior Sports Writer

The surprise element can't be something teams like Grosse Ile can use on opposing golf teams.

Winning a few state championship, as the Red Devils have done, takes that away. What is surprising to those who don't followed the sport too closely, however, is the pure beauty of the team concept.

Sure, Grosse Ile put together a couple of great individual performances throughout the year.

But come crunch time, everyone got the job done.

Over the two-day championship at the Forest Akers East Golf Course in East Lansing, Devils **Erich Ebel** and **Chris Lott** were in a tie for fifth with a score of 157.

Obviously, that's good.

But **Matt Mahanic** had Grosse Ile in the hunt on the first day, firing a day-one-best score of 74. That's the sort of stuff that helps the team in the long run.

Grosse Ile's No. 4 score came from two players that most teams would love to have as their No. 1s: **Zach Everingham** and **John Gaynier**. Both finished with a two-day score of 166.

All five Devils have taken turns being outstanding this year. All delivered at the Division III state meet, which Grosse Ile won by five strokes over Essexville-Garber.

All are members of the All-Downriver golf team.

Another team to qualify for the state meet was Trenton, up in Division II.

The Trojans ran hard in a tight Mega Red race this year, then proved their worth by making it to the Division II state meet in St. Johns at the Emerald at Maple Creek.

The scary thing about Trenton? None of the top players graduate from this team.

Drew Malicki, **Tim Mann**, **Jason Unger** and **Tom Hughes** have all been the No. 1 player at one time or another this season for Coach Ron Andrews' squad.

While those two teams stood head and shoulders above the others, there were still plenty of other good team and indi-

vidual efforts.

The Devils and the Trojans were the only locals to taste state-meet competition.

Allen Park's **Dennis Mydlowski** rang up back-to-back scores of 34 and 35 during the regular season, then had a great round at the regional level to move onto the Division III meet.

Joining Trenton in the Mega Red was Roosevelt, which had a very solid season and looked good in winning a very close Gabriel Richard Scramble.

Todd Goshorn and **Jerry Tomasek** carded their share of outstanding rounds this season, dipping into the 30s on several occasions.

There were plenty of other noteworthy individual efforts this season.

At Lincoln Park, the Railsplitters were smack in the middle of a very good Mega White race. Although the Rails didn't win the league, they came mighty close.

Paul Rudolph was one of several stand-outs for Lincoln Park, which set a new school record by carding a 152 in a September victory.

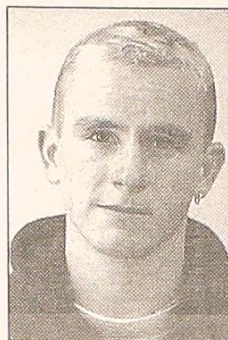
Woodhaven also was a major player in the Mega White. Although Garden City won the league title, the Warriors stayed close with leaders like **Steve Harris** and **Phil Somerville**, who averaged a shade under 40.

In the Huron League, the Huron Chiefs (and everyone else) had a hard time keeping up with Grosse Ile.

But **Ryan Johnson**, who rang up his share of sub-40 rounds, helped the Chiefs put together a fine season.

HONORABLE MENTION:

Nick Srabian, Trenton; **Scott Cutcher**, Romulus; **Vic Quattrin** and **B.J. Malicki**, Aquinas; **Mark Carpenter**, Lance Chamberlin, Allen Park; **Nathan Johnson** and **Reid Ralls**, Huron; **Jon Ochmanek**, Gabriel Richard; **Ryan Meharry**, Kennedy; **Kevin Zeleji**, Anderson; **Phil Somerville**, Woodhaven; **Matt Kurdziel** and **Bob Wanger**, Lincoln Park; **Bill Love**, Cabrini; **Tom Daily**, Grosse Ile; **Brad Vernier** and **Brent Vallentine**, Riverview; **Ryan Deneau** and **Brad Lunsford**, Carlson.



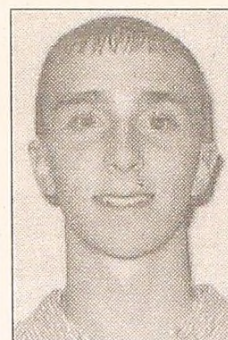
Ebel



Goshorn



Hughes



Lott



Mahanic



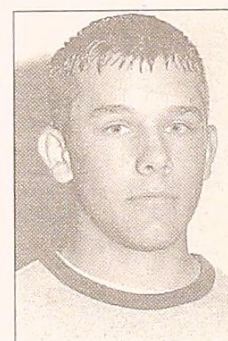
Malicki



Mann



Mydlowski



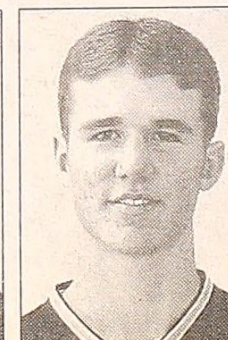
Rudolph



Tomasek



Everingham



Unger

Numerous coaches collect N-H honors

By Hank Minckiewicz

Heritage Sports Editor

Throughout the course of the 1999 fall prep season, many area coaches distinguished themselves.

We'd like to honor a few here.

FOOTBALL

Allen Park's **Tom Hoover** helped his team accomplish most of its goals this season, including winning a league title and making the state playoffs. He is our Dream Team coach of the year.

Other grid giants who deserve recognition are River Rouge's **Bert Henderson**; Romulus' **Mark Woodson**; Carlson's **Jim McDonald**; and Gabriel Richard's **Pat Sieszputowski**.

BASKETBALL

Roosevelt's **Tom DeSana** and Grosse Ile's **Steve Sims** are the Dream Team coaches. Not to be overlooked, however are Light and Life's **Kelly Collins** and Carlson's **Jeff Brenning**, each of whom took their teams to league championships, and Lincoln Park's **Jim Kalbflied**, who team won the Mega Blue-Gold tournament.

SOCCER

Mark Kraatz of Inter-City earns honors for his teams 17-victory season. The Class D Wildcats beat some much bigger schools this year.

CROSS COUNTRY

The combination of **Eric Sturm** (girls) and **Nelson MacNicol** (boys) has the Trenton programs humming.

Led by the No. 1 runner in the area, **Pat Roberts**, MacNicol's boys won the News-Herald Invitational by a healthy margin over Roosevelt.

Sturm's girls overcame injury and edged **Anderson** at the same meet.

Anderson Coach Tony Mifsud, too, deserves a nod. Mifsud's girls' team was a close second at the N-H and both the boys and girls won Mega White titles this season.

SWIMMING

Riverview's Debbie Leggeiri and **Huron's Amy Kidd** stand out among the rest this year.

Slowly **Leggeiri** is building **Riverview** back into the strong program it used to be. **Kidd** has the Chiefs competing at a high level.

GOLF

It's hard to argue with success and success is what **Jim Bennett** had again at Grosse Ile.

Bennett, who gets plenty of raw material each year, has molded the Devils into a multiple-time state championship team.

Lynne Herman's Trenton team was dominant this season, sweeping through the Mega Red season with ease and then advancing to the state tournament as regional champs.

The Trojanettes won six of seven flights at regionals and finished second in the other.



Grosse Ile's Chris Lott and the golf team won another state title this season.

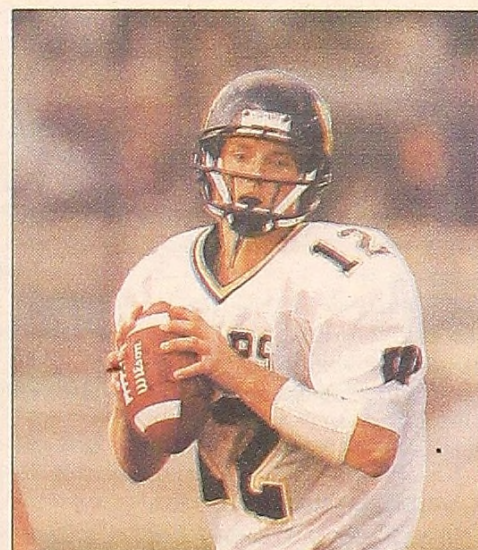
ALL-DOWNRIVER PHOTO STORY



Dream Team member Kelly Lanagan (left) helped Roosevelt win a district championship. Tough-as-nails Sean Laura (top) helped Carlson to a successful season.



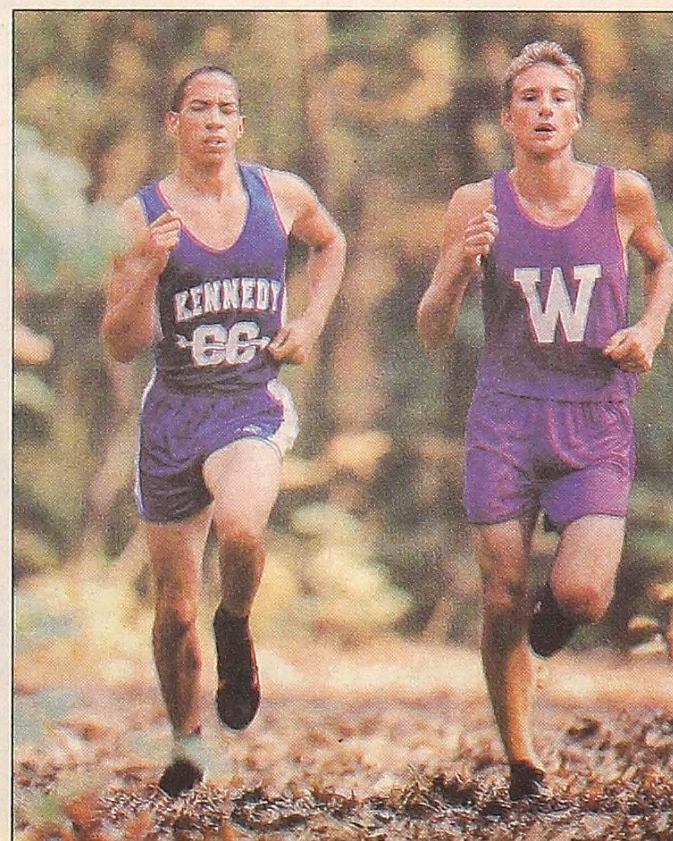
Lincoln Park's Ester Szabo burst onto the swim scene this season.



Roosevelt's Jeff Powell is a prized college recruit.



Martel Foster led River Rouge to a league title and into the state playoffs.



Tony Pate (left) and John Hammerle battled through several area invitational this season. Both All-Downriver runners were among the best in the area this season.

Quarterback Phil Short led the surprising Lincoln Park Rails to three Mega Red victories.